



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,689

IN THE NEWS SECTION



Premiership club guide

WITH 7 PAGES OF SPORT

FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 1998

IN THE BROADSHEET REVIEW



Ultraviolence in Manchester

REVIEW FRONT



ARTS DESIGN

Genetic food is backed by top scientist

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

ONE OF the world's leading authorities on evolutionary genetics has condemned what he sees as irrational fears over genetically modified food.

Richard Dawkins, Simonyi Professor of the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University, says that modifying food by genetic engineering is no different to the selective breeding carried out by farmers for thousands of years.

Professor Dawkins, who is an award-winning science author, says in a letter to *The Independent* today that the toxins and poisons which occur in natural, "unengineered" food are just as dangerous as anything that could result from genetic engineering.

"I can reveal that the toxins in deadly nightshade, deathcap fungi and puff adder venom are produced by unengineered genes," he writes.

In a response to the fears expressed by Prince Charles in June that scientists are playing God by genetically enhancing food, Professor Dawkins said yesterday that there are many types of foods that would not exist without such intervention.

"The other thing you can say to Prince Charles is that if you look at a maize cob it is



Dawkins: genetic expert

hugely different from a wild maize cob and that has been achieved not by introducing foreign genes but by artificially selecting genes," he says.

"When one uses rhetoric like 'Frankenstein's plants', you could call a maize cob a Frankenstein plant, but everyone is quite happy to eat maize cobs."

Although he accepts there are still risks attached to genetically modified crops, Professor Dawkins said that these are more likely to be environmental rather than nutritional or medical.

"There's a general feeling that these foods are almost radioactive. The reaction has been as if people believe genetically modified plants are poisonous, or they give you cancer or that they degrade your immune system. Well anything can do that."

Genetic engineering can introduce genes from one species of plant or animal into the genetic makeup of another species of crop plant, but "the fact that you are importing them from another species does not inherently make it bad or good", the professor says.

Letters, Review, page 2

Soros 'meltdown' warning sparks turmoil in markets

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
and LEA PATERSON and
HELEN WOMACK in Moscow

GEORGE SOROS, the currency speculator who broke the Bank of England, caused mayhem on the world's financial markets yesterday after warning of a "meltdown" in Russia and calling for a devaluation of the rouble.

Russia's "Black Thursday", as it was dubbed by state-owned radio, caused severe jitters in other markets, with shares down sharply in both London and Germany and the German mark down by four pence against sterling at one point.

Trading on the Moscow stock market was suspended for 35 minutes after shares

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crashed by 12 per cent in the wake of Mr Soros's remarks, made in a letter to the *Financial Times*.

Mr Soros, a Hungarian-born speculator and philanthropist, is reputed to have made \$1bn betting against sterling when it was forced out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism in 1992.

Since then his record has been patchy. Mr Soros got his fingers burnt badly during the Far East economic crash and then misjudged spectacularly earlier this year by taking out an \$8bn bet against the pound.

But yesterday he was bang on target, after urging the Russian authorities to devalue the rouble by between 15 and 25 per cent. In his letter he said: "The meltdown in Russian financial markets has reached the terminal phase... The best solution would be to introduce a



George Soros: His letter warning of "meltdown" in Russia and calling for devaluation of the rouble caused mayhem on financial markets around the world. Gamma/FSP

currency board (pegging the currency to the dollar or the euro) after a modest devaluation of 15 to 25 per cent."

The reaction in the already shaky Russian markets was dramatic. The central bank was forced to impose limits on rouble trading after heavy selling of the currency, and yields on government bonds rocketed on fears of a devaluation.

The Russian authorities rebuffed all suggestions of a devaluation. The prime minister, Sergei Kirienko, described the day's events as "in the sphere of psychology and not real economics", while other ministers rallied around the battered stock market and currency.

Mikhail Zadornov, finance minister, said: "If we thought that a devaluation was in

evitable, we would not be following our current policy. But it is avoidable."

However Germany Zyuganov, the Communist leader, warned:

"An absolutely urgent situation has arisen. If there is a devaluation of the rouble, a collapse of the banks and the impoverishment of the people will follow."

In Britain, the FTSE fell 44 to 8509 in late-morning trading, erasing an earlier 50-point gain.

Rumours of a Russian de-

valuation had earlier hit the markets in Hong Kong, where the Hang Seng Index closed down 199 points, at its lowest level since April 1993.

Experts were agreed yesterday that a devaluation would provide short-term relief to Russian woes. But it would also bring a new set of problems, since many Russian banks have commitments to

buy dollars at an agreed point in the future at a specified dollar/rouble exchange rate.

Devaluation would also damage the confidence of both residents and foreign investors. A sharp fall in the rouble would render the savings of many Russians almost worthless in foreign currency terms. This so-called "wealth effect" could precipitate a political crisis.

Benefit fraud staff 'swanned round' at taxpayers' expense

A £3m SQUAD of benefit fraud-busters produced just one prosecution in two years while its agents faced accusations of playing cards and "swanning around" in new cars at the taxpayers' expense.

The unit, the first created specifically to target organised gangs, did not even become fully operational until 16 months after it was created, a government watchdog said yesterday. The Audit Commission found the London Organised Fraud Investigation Team (Loft) stopped benefit to just two claimants since it was set up in 1996. In its report the commission said lack of management controls and a staff time recording system meant it was difficult to tell exactly how

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

much work the 20 agents had done. Loft was set up by the Department of Social Security and Association of London Government (ALG) to cut the £1bn cost of fraudulent benefit and council-tax claims.

It was charged with tracking down landlords and gangs who worked across the capital and who had avoided detection by councils. But the commission found that of 98 cases handled, 12 were fully investigated and of those seven resulted in no further action; 38 were rejected as unsuitable and five others referred to police and other agencies.

The new Rovers, Audis and

Renaults the agents were supposed to use for surveillance of suspects were used for private purposes.

An anonymous letter to Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swanscombe West, said the agents were "playing cards all day and swanning around in brand-new BMWs" at the taxpayers' expense". But the Audit Commission report said the unit should continue, because it had potential to halt big fraudsters in their tracks if it were properly managed. It called on the ALG to act with "great urgency" on its recommendations to tighten up monitoring of staff and car-fleet logs.

Iain Duncan Smith, the Conservative spokesman on social security, said: "Since New

Labour came to power, the faults in Loft went unchecked. This is yet another example of New Labour ministers being caught out for not closely following their briefs."

An ALG spokesman said the report was "unfair" and the anonymous letter inaccurate, because the cars involved were not BMWs. "There are bound to be teething problems and... we do take on board some of their recommendations but the complex nature of the cases mean that prosecutions do take time".

Loft has in the past been lauded by ministers as a model of how to combat fraud and the Audit Commission had hoped it would be replicated across the country.

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The day the BBC dropped its drawers

BY JANE ROBINS
Media Correspondent

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A 1948 document just released as a book by the BBC, "Variety Programmes Policy Guide" for writers and producers - selling at £4.99 - details the vulgarities considered by the Corporation hierarchy to be too risqué-making for a post-war audience.

A 1948 document just released as a book by the BBC, "Variety Programmes Policy Guide" for writers and producers - selling at £4.99 - details the vulgarities considered by the Corporation hierarchy to be too risqué-making for a post-war audience.

The book "winter draws on" is a joke which would be "unacceptable" to most rational people.

All impersonations, state the guidelines, need the permission of the people being impersonated. A ban on impersonating Winston Churchill is set down.

Jokes about ladies' under-

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The one rule that would offend a modern audience is that which permits the term "nigger minstrels".

Perhaps the most ignored rule was the outlawing of jokes which might be taken to encourage "spivs" or "drones" - species that were to pepper sitcoms in the 1960s.

Genetic engineering can introduce genes from one species of plant or animal into the genetic makeup of another species of crop plant, but "the fact that you are importing them from another species does not inherently make it bad or good", the professor says.

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The \$1.25bn settlement for Holocaust survivors agreed by two Swiss banks was welcomed by Jewish groups

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HOME

A former naval officer who stalked a woman for more than six years walked free from court

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FOREIGN

In a sombre scene, the bodies of 10 Americans killed in the US embassy bombings in Africa returned home

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FOREIGN

Aid workers and Afghan families fled territory controlled by the opposition alliance as the Taliban closed in

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BUSINESS

750,000 households will be allowed to shop around for a different electricity supplier a month from now

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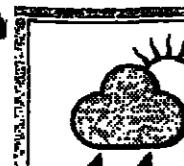
SPORT

Pay-per-view television will be introduced for some football matches this season, but not championship-deciding games

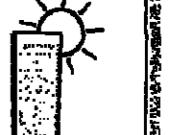
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A little PIMM'S late morning, becoming widespread by the afternoon.



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Cash for low student drop-outs

Financial rewards for universities with low drop-out rates will be outlined by the Government next week. Page 5

Bid to outlaw workplace ageism

The Government is to ban age limits on all vacancies in Job Centres as part of a new drive to tackle age discrimination by employers. Page 6

Call for right to Caesarean birth

Pregnant women should be allowed to choose to have their babies by Caesarean if they wish to avoid the problems associated with a normal labour. Page 8

Sick rail staff face random visits

Train workers off sick will face random visits by managers after illness rates doubled at one of the biggest private rail firms. Page 10

FOREIGN NEWS

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Ile de France richest area in EU

The Paris region has the greatest concentration of wealth and economic power of any region in the European Union. Page 12

Floods erode order in China

Law and order is starting to break down in disaster-struck areas of China after more than month of severe floods. Page 14

Australia set for tax revolution

Australia's Prime Minister yesterday announced the most comprehensive tax reform package in the country's history. Page 14

BUSINESS NEWS

PAGES 16-21

Bad weather lifts airport figures

Dismal weather, the end of the World Cup and the expansion of cut-price airlines spurred Britons to take wing in record numbers last month. Page 18

Vaux sinks on takeover denial

Shares of Vaux slumped 11 per cent, wiping £60m from the pubs-to-hotels group's market value after the company denied that it was in takeover talks. Page 18

SPORTS NEWS

PAGES 22-28

England braced for next test

England's cricketers prepare for their next test, a triangular one-day series starting today with South Africa against the World Cup holders, Sri Lanka. Page 26

Rowell and Dwyer head Bristol

Ex-England rugby union coach Jack Rowell will form a managerial team at Bristol with Bob Dwyer, who guided Australia to victory in the 1991 World Cup. Page 28

FRIDAY REVIEW

20-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Mary Dejevsky

'Whether a sin was committed or not, whether the law was broken or not, Mr Clinton has diminished the office of the presidency.' Page 3

Hunter Davies

'I hope that Max Clifford will one day be kind enough to reveal the details of the brilliant work he must have done in launching The Beatles.' Page 5

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BRITAIN TODAY

OUTLOOK

General showers. Sun in clear Scotland and Northern Ireland and it will turn fresher with a mix of sun and rain and brief showers. The rest of England and Wales will be dull with sun, Central and south-eastern England will be bright, which will last longer. However, south-east England will stay dry.

Cets E England & SE

England, London, E Anglia, East Anglia, south-east: A light to moderate south-west and West Temp 22-25°C (72-77°F)

Lincs & N Midlands: Mostly

cloudy with rain in the south and a moderate south-west wind. Max temp 22-25°C (72-77°F)

W Midlands, SW Eng-

land: Cloudy with rain. A

moderate south-west and

west wind. Max temp 21-23°C (70-73°F)

NW & NE England,

W Yorks, Lake Dist, Isle of

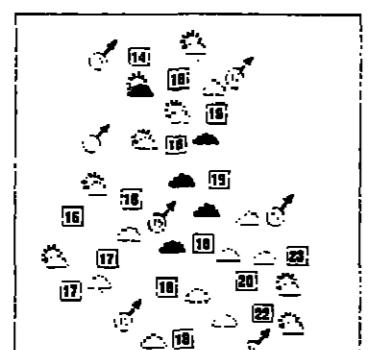
Man, Wales: Overcast

with rain. A moderate

south-west wind. Max

temp 21-23°C (70-73°F)

Channel Is: Mostly sunny



A light to moderate south-west wind. Max temp 21-23°C (70-73°F)

SE & NE Scotland, E Anglia, south-east: A light rain and blustery showers. A moderate to fresh south-west wind. Max temp 16-18°C (61-64°F)

SE & NE Scotland, E Anglia, south-east: Rain clearing by early afternoon then sunny spells and scattered showers. A moderate to fresh south-west wind. Max temp 18-20°C (64-68°F)

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Islet: Rain clearing by early afternoon then sunny spells and scattered showers. A moderate to fresh south-west wind. Max temp 16-18°C (61-64°F)

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 05:44
Sun sets: 20:36
Moon sets: 23:48
Moon rises: 13:38

Last quarter today

WEATHERLINE

For the latest information on the weather, call 0800 500 000 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the code below. This area code is 0100. The area code 0100 is charged at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT).

Cool and breezy in Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England. On Saturday each sunny spells and showers. Overnight rain clearing south-east England then remaining parts of England will have sunny spells and the odd shower.

Labour slaps down unrest

THE LABOUR leadership last night cracked down on dissent in the party as it revealed preparations to make this year's annual party conference as trouble-free as possible for Tony Blair and the Cabinet.

Conference reports show there is growing unrest in the Labour grassroots over the Government's public sector pay squeeze, the failure to provide Parliamentary time for the bill to ban foxhunting, and increases in calls for the abolition of the Monarchy and the House of Lords.

But the room for dissent at the conference is being minimised, with Cabinet ministers facing questions at the conference behind closed doors for the first time, without the press and cameras present, in two 90-minute sessions during the week.

As the plans emerged, for

what promises to be the most

carefully stage-managed

Labour conference ever, Tom

Sawyer, the outgoing party gen-

eral secretary took firm action in slapping down Liz Davies, a left wing candidate for the national executive elections, who had sent an open letter to NEC members protesting that a telephone ballot could be open to manipulation and abuse.

Mr Sawyer accused Ms

Davies, a one-time rebel, of

leading a "concerted campaign

of slur and innuendo" against

party staff and others about the

handling of the telephone

polling for the NEC elections.

"I must demand that you with-

draw these allegations and

offer a full apology to party

staff," he said.

The activist Grassroots Al-

liance last night hit back ac-

using the leadership of being

"control freaks" and persuad-

ing some candidates for the

NEC elections to stand down to

avoid splitting the right wing

vote at the conference in Black-

pool.

Party leaders said the new

system of holding policy fo-

rum throughout the country

meant there was more open de-

bate than ever.

But it is clear that the lead-

ership wants no return to the

days when Labour was last in

power, and Cabinet ministers

such as Denis Healey were pil-

liorised at the annual confer-

ence.

There will be none of the tra-

ditional card votes on "com-

posite" resolutions. Instead,

the conference will discuss

broad policy proposals, previ-

ously discussed in the policy fo-

rum.

The conference will open on

Sunday with a review of the

party machinery; key debates

are likely to be on the economy

on Monday, health, education, controversial plans for reform of the state pension and the electoral system.

The NEC has told the Jenkins commission it is opposed to "pure" proportional representation, which, it warns, would lead to coalition government.

The leader's address by Tony Blair will still be on the Tuesday and the conference is due to end on Friday, said officials, with the traditional singing of the Red Flag.

Labour's membership is now an estimated 399,000.

Concerns over suspended surgeon

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

MANAGERS AT a hospital in Scotland where a surgeon was suspended following the death of one of his patients disclosed yesterday that concerns had been raised about his operating technique for months.

Concerns about the clinical practices of Preetesh Sharma, 41, were first investigated by Douglas Irving, the medical director at Stracathro hospital in Angus, who was himself suspended three weeks ago when issues were raised over his treatment of patients with breast cancer.

The suspension of two of the hospital's three general surgeons has plunged Stracathro into chaos. All accident and emergency services have had to be transferred to Dundee, forcing casualties to travel up to 50 miles for treatment.

A file has been passed to the Procurator Fiscal, Scotland's prosecuting authority, following the death in a Dundee hospital of Alexander Brown, a 66-year-old grandfather, only hours after an emergency abdominal operation performed by Mr Sharma at Stracathro. Mr Sharma was unavailable for comment last night.

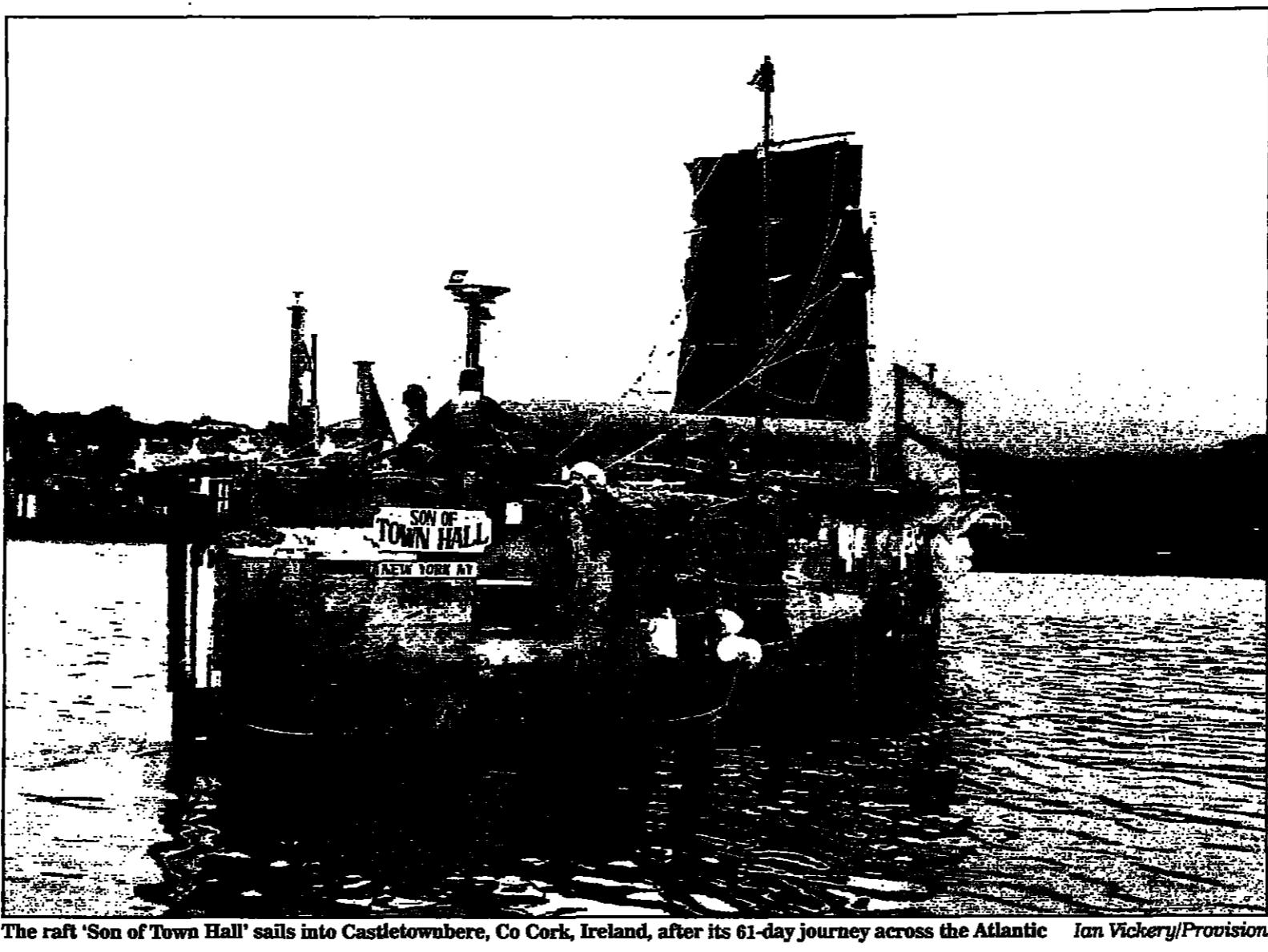
The records of some 400 patients treated by Mr Sharma since he arrived at the hospital last November are now being reviewed. Yesterday Doctor Gordon Paterson, who took over as acting medical director following Mr Irving's suspension, said he had been made aware of concerns about Mr Sharma's technique but there was no indication that action should be taken at that time.

"These were expressions of concern about his clinical practice in dealing with major cases. A lot of it would be major abdominal surgery," he said.

Mr Irving had discussed some of Mr Sharma's cases with him and had watched him operate. However, Mr Paterson admitted he had not discussed the matter directly with Mr Irving whose own work is a subject of an external investigation.

The concerns went back months but Mr Sharma continued to carry out operations without supervision, as he was qualified to do. The full-scale investigation was ordered, and Mr Sharma asked to withdraw from practice, only after Mr Brown's death and what Dr Paterson indicated was further information coming to light.

Dr Paterson rejected suggestions that the hospital or the Angus NHS Trust had acted too slowly. "If we suspended every surgeon the minute anybody said 'I think there's a problem' there would not be many surgeons (operating)," he said.



The raft 'Son of Town Hall' sails into Castletownbere, Co Cork, Ireland, after its 61-day journey across the Atlantic Ian Vickery/Provision

Scientists go to war over salt: is it really so bad for you?

A WAR OF WORDS has broken out over whether salt in the diet causes high blood pressure, with a leading British expert on hypertension accusing a prestigious American scientific journal of irresponsibility.

An article in the current issue of Science suggests that hypertension may be the result of a mineral-poor diet rather than high salt intake. Both papers present a very misleading account of the evidence. The situation is reminiscent of the Seventies when evidence relating to cigarette smoking to lung cancer and heart attacks was disputed," he said.

But Professor Graham Mac-

evelary, vascular medicine at St George's Hospital in London and a leading critic of the salt lobby, yesterday accused the journal of publishing "bad science".

A number of studies have appeared over the past two years which appear to contradict each other. Critics of a high-salt diet believe the food industry, which has sponsored research into salt, is attempting to promote the idea that salt is safe.

David McCarron, a scientist at Oregon Health Sciences

University in Portland, says in Science that the role of salt in hypertension has long been debated and the conclusions are not clear. "The adequate intake of minerals, rather than restriction of sodium, should be the focus of dietary recommendations," he says.

He suggests that the shift in most people's dietary patterns from nutrient-rich foods such as milk, fruits and vegetables to nutrient-poor foods such as chips and soft drinks, is far more likely than salt to contribute to hypertension.

Professor MacGregor em-

phasised that British government advisers who have reviewed all the evidence relating to dietary salt have failed to come to the same conclusions.

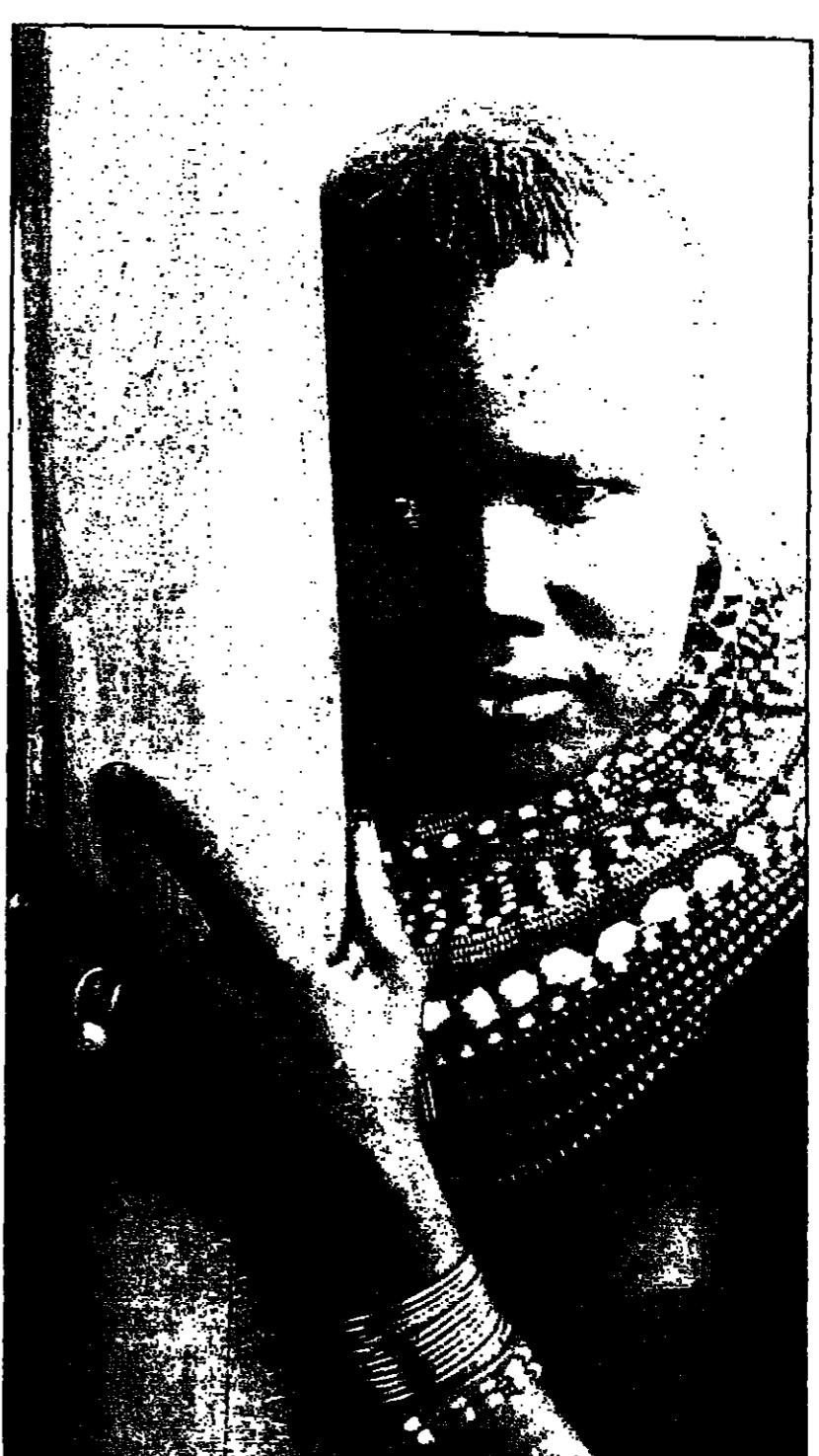
The Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy has recommended a reduction in salt intake of 30 per cent for the British population.

Professor MacGregor said this would require co-operation from

Concerns over suspended surgeon

Gustave Courbet weighs up the female attractions in his *Les Baigneuses*

Monroe's classic curves have given way to stretched models



The angular beauty of a Masai woman in southern Kenya Still Pictures

Scientists unlock the secrets of women's sexual attractiveness

FOR WOMEN, it may come as a surprise. The men who stare at them across crowded rooms are not, after all, mentally unaddressing them. They are more likely to be weighing them up.

Curves, it turns out, are less important than weight in the eye of the 1990s British male. If it is not the classic hourglass figure that sets men's pulses racing, but simple slenderness. Sexual attractiveness lies in the pointer on the bathroom scales.

Or so scientists claim. In other cultures and at different times men may have shown different preferences in their search for the ideal mate, from the angular Masai tribeswomen of Kenya to the voluptuous models of Rubens' imagination.

But in northern England at the end of the millennium, young men's desires are focused on women of a certain, narrowly defined dress size.

Traditionally, the most attractive body shape for a woman - as decided by her male admirers - has been said to be determined by the ratio of her hip-to-waist size.

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health editor

A ratio of 0.7 - a curvaceous body in which the waist measurement is 80 per cent less than the hip measurement - was thought to be the ideal. The choice of this ratio is said to reflect evolutionary pressures, not those of the fashion houses, since it represents a fat distribution that leads to obesity.

Drs Martin Tovee and Piers Cornelissen, lecturers in the department of psychology at the

University of Newcastle, sought to put this definition of femininity to the test. They videoed 400 women students from the university wearing grey leotards and selected 50 representing the full range of body weights from emaciated to obese.

Still pictures of the 50 women with their heads obscured were shown to 40 male students who were asked to rank them for attractiveness. Despite the fact that women at all weights showed varying waist-hip ratios, it was their per-

ceived slenderness that influenced the men most.

Those with a body-mass index, a measurement of fat/thinness that combines weight and height, of 18 to 20 were judged the most attractive. This is thinner than the average woman whose BMI ranges from 20 to 25, but markedly plumper than the seriously underweight and anorexic who were judged as unattractive as the obese.

Body-mass index turned out to be far more significant than waist-hip ratio in determining

the men's choices - redefining the ideal of sexual attractiveness.

The choice has an evolutionary logic to it. Dr Tovee said: "What men find attractive in women are cues to their health and fertility so the partners they choose will produce lots of children and ensure the survival of their genes."

"A waist-hip ratio of 0.7 was thought to represent a fat distribution that led to maximum fertility but other research shows that a BMI of 18 to 20 is a much better predictor of

health and fertility." The students' preference for slender women demonstrates how evolutionary advantage is the father of desire. Even within the normal BMI range of 20 to 25, the plumpest people, although not overweight, are 20 per cent more likely to suffer heart problems and were also found to be unattractive.

"Weight is a very good predictor of health. We found there was a hierarchy of cues for attractiveness.

"The male students first chose women within the most fertile weight range and then discriminated them within that range on the basis of the waist-to-hip ratio."

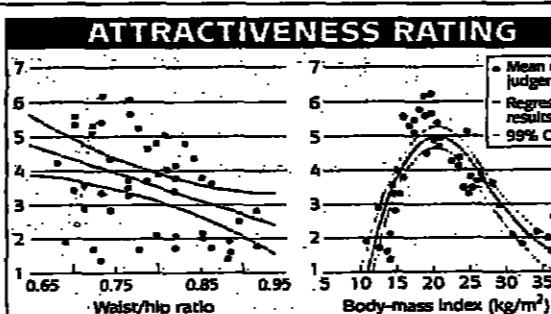
The study is part of research into anorexia and grew out of the observation that anorexics whose periods have stopped and who are therefore infertile may still have waist-hip ratios like normal women, suggesting that the ratio is not a reliable indicator of reproductive potential.

Dr Tovee warned that women of normal weight should not conclude that dieting was the way to enhance sex-

ual attractiveness. "Most women in this age group fall at the lower end of the normal range. They don't need to diet and could be doing themselves damage if they do. People with a body-mass index below 18 develop all sorts of health problems and were also found to be unattractive."

"I get annoyed when people say supermodels are anorexic and look like sticks insects. They are actually very shapely and they don't look like anorexics at all. Jodie Kidd is described as a waif but she is quite a strapping waif as waifs go. Her weight is just stretched out."

HOW THEY REDEFINED FEMININE ALLURE



dent's judgements follow a neat curve, peaking just below 20 before falling again. The curve is steeper at the thinner end of the range rather than at the plumper end. This means male perceptions of attractiveness fall sharply as BMI drops below 18 but decline gently as BMI increases above 20. Thin women are seen as much less attractive than plumper ones.

...but beauty's still in eye of beholder

BY DAVID COHEN

WHEN the Italian poet D'Annunzio visited Maillol's studio he admired the elegant, classical sculptures on view but let it be known that he preferred his women a little thinner.

Maillol was indignant. Of course he realised that, by urbane modern tastes, his women were rustic, stocky, compact. But the point of his art wasn't sexual craving so much as spiritual well-being. The viewer is supposed to think of the Golden Age, not a rendezvous.

Art is far from a reliable barometer of past sexual preferences because although the bodies of women of child-bearing age have been a relatively constant subject throughout its history, an enormous variety of different ideals have been projected on the female form.

Even when it comes to the goddess of love, the ideal isn't single-tracked, according to Plato, for whom there were two distinct Venuses: Venus Coelestis and Venus Naturalis, one for the libido, the other for more rarefied emotions.

It is with trepidation, there-



The Three Graces', Rubens; Lucian Freud's 'Naked Girl'; 'Portrait of a Young Woman' by Meredith Frampton



fore, that one should re-visit the nudist canon with Dr Tovee's vital statistics in search of further confirmation, among the loveliness of the past, of the findings of his researches among 40 lusty Newcastle undergrads. The earliest two reprodu-

ctions in Kenneth Clark's classic study, *The Nude*, are of the "Venus" of Willendorf, a paleolithic carving of such extraordinary amlessness that the supposedly ideal hip-to-waist ratio of 0.7 is inverted (and more!), and a Cycladic doll,

who with her waist-like torso would not be out of place next to Kate Moss on the catwalk. But who's to say that the maker of either image sought an accurate depiction of a normal woman, let alone a desirable one? Reproduction is not the only urge in art, any more than in sex.

Even if artistic images were to be treated as neutral documentation, it is unlikely that the "optimum body-mass index" would reveal a common, biologically-determined ideal.

For artistic ideals to reflect sexual libido we'd need to believe that nudes are drawn from life, or at least from longings based on experience. We'd also need to believe that the patron's libido overrules the artist's ideals, which is no more likely than a shopper's needs influencing a couturier's designs (according to Giorgio Armani, incidentally, Claudia Schiffer's proportions are "graceless").

As Kenneth Clark says, the nude is not so much a subject as a form: it can be filled with any number of preoccupations, aesthetic, sensual, intellectual. Flesh and its amplitude can likewise have symbolic meanings which transcend the changing shape of shapeliness: Courbet's earth goddesses, more Rubenesque than Rubens, are as much about politics as lust.

In the final analysis, it's as likely that art should influence sexual tastes as the other way around. The depicted nude establishes an ideal to be sought after in the real world.

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For 31,000 families disinherited by the Holocaust, the wait may finally be over

KENNETH WARD does not know what happened to the money his father, a music teacher, secreted away in a Swiss bank account as war loomed.

He was shipped to Britain at the age of 16 to escape the Nazis. His parents and elder brother later died in a Polish concentration camp.

Now a pensioner, Mr Ward is trying to find the missing money. He has filled in the forms to help identify accounts that Holocaust survivors have never been able to reclaim for lack of proof of ownership.

News of the \$1.25 billion (nearly £800 million) settlement agreed between two Swiss banks and Jewish leaders in New York late on Wednesday may help, regardless of whether the banks find Mr Ward's family account.

But despite the fanfare of the historic deal, the details are still to be agreed. It was brokered this week as several American states prepared to impose sanctions against Swiss businesses, accusing them of dragging their feet in resolving the affair. How exactly the money is going to be distributed over the next three years is still unknown.

"I think it's a step in the right direction," Mr Ward said yesterday from his home in Essex. "But I don't really know whether I will qualify."

For Mr Ward, as for many others, he only really wants what is his. "We're not looking for handouts. We're just hoping to retrieve some of the money that was deposited in Swiss bank accounts and was lost."

The deal was nonetheless welcomed by Jewish groups even as it provoked some hostility in Switzerland itself.

Far from satisfying concerns about the wartime treatment of Jews, the decision looks likely to create renewed pressure to settle other outstanding disputes arising from the war and post-war settlements.

These include what happened to looted art and compensation for Jewish slave labourers forced to work in appalling conditions in German factories. Many big German companies have refused for years to compensate their former workers.

Neville Nagler, of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said: "We would now look for a rapid settlement on the other major and outstanding issues."

IN BRIEF

Woman killed in car crash with family was expecting twins

THE MOTHER killed with her partner and three children in a road crash was expecting twin boys, it emerged yesterday. Marie Allen, 30, died instantly when the family's BMW burst into flames and crashed into a ditch after colliding with a coach on the A16 at Louth, Lincolnshire, on Wednesday evening.

Children died of smoke inhalation

THREE CHILDREN found dead in a car earlier this month died of smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning. Staffordshire police said yesterday. Lucy Carter, seven, Hollie, three, and Thomas, four, were found near Alton Towers. Their father Steven Carter was found hanging nearby.

Scotland's hospital success

HOSPITAL WAITING lists in Scotland have fallen for the first time in almost two years, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary said yesterday. And latest figures from Scotland's Health Board show no one with a Patient's Charter guarantee waited more than 12 months for treatment.

Animal export protests resume

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday came under pressure to end the trade in live animal exports as demonstrators vowed to resume daily protests at Dover. The row broke out as a new ferry service was due to start yesterday to boost the numbers sent for slaughter abroad.

Waiting lists in Scotland fall

HOSPITAL waiting lists in Scotland have fallen for the first time in almost two years, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, said. Lists fell by 822 from 31 March to 30 June. Figures also show no one with a Patient's Charter guarantee waited more than 12 months for treatment.

Mink hunters accuse authorities

HUNTING GROUPS today accused environmental authorities of "political correctness" by not calling in their hounds to catch the mink rampaging through the New Forest. Members of Hampshire Mink Hounds said flushing them out with dogs was the most effective method.

Water menaces warning

AN ORGANISM that lurks in river estuaries steals people's memories, scientists warned yesterday. They said a similar organism that causes dementia-like symptoms was found in the North Sea in November.

MARY DEJEVSKY

'For a Briton, the uncynical awe in which Americans hold the President has something innocent and archaic about it'

— THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3

BY LOUISE JURY AND
PETER CAPELLA

Most especially these relate to looted art treasures and outstanding insurance policies."

They were also looking for "the moral restitution which will come from absorbing the lessons of the past two years," he said.

Lord Janner, of the Holocaust Educational Trust, said he hoped the money would reach the victims and their families very swiftly.

"Now we must look towards other nations to complete their further inquiries into what happened to assets of the victims of the Nazis." Fifteen countries have investigations under way into Jewish assets.

A spokesman for the banks, Credit Suisse Group and the Union Bank of Switzerland AG, said the settlement represented a "major milestone in our longstanding efforts to ensure that justice is served. In the eyes of all involved, this agreement represents full financial and moral restitution."

But it emerged yesterday that the banks assume that other Swiss companies and institutions will help to finance the payment because they lifted the threat of sanctions.

Yet the Swiss government has said it regards the US lawsuits as a private matter and would not spend any taxpayers' money. The Swiss central bank, the National Bank, which dealt with large amounts of gold looted by the Nazis, welcomed the agreement but steered clear of any commitment.

Political opinion was split. The conservative Swiss People's Party said it regretted the success of "attempts at blackmail" and would resist any use of public funds.

More than 31,000 plaintiffs from around the world were signed up to the class action claims against the banks, which triggered this deal.

However, Eli Steinberg, of the World Jewish Congress, said the money would be used to benefit all Holocaust survivors and not just the claimants.

The Volcker commission, which was auditing Swiss bank accounts to try to find missing accounts, would continue its work. Anyone whose money could not be traced would be eligible to make applications for payment out of the \$1.25 billion settlement.

These include what happened to looted art and compensation for Jewish slave labourers forced to work in appalling conditions in German factories. Many big German companies have refused for years to compensate their former workers.

Neville Nagler, of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said: "We would now look for a rapid settlement on the other major and outstanding issues."



Kenneth Ward with a picture of his parents and brother who all died in the Holocaust

Warren Page/Anglia Press Agency

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Six-year stalker freed by judge

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

A FORMER naval officer who stalked a woman for more than six years, sending hate mail, bugging her house and stealing personal possessions, walked free from court yesterday.

Anthony Burstow, 38, a veteran of the Falklands War, was bound over to keep the peace for 12 months by a judge at Reading Crown Court as his victim Tracey Morgan sat in tears.

Burstow had been charged with causing grievous bodily harm to Miss Morgan, 30, but the case was ordered to lie on file after he agreed to be bound over.

Judge Stanley Spence said he offered his great sympathy to Miss Morgan "who has found herself in a very difficult position over many years".

Burstow was jailed for three years in 1996 in a landmark case after he was convicted of causing psychological grievous bodily harm to the same woman, then known as Tracey Sant.

As she left the court, a clearly distressed Miss Morgan said: "As far as British justice goes he has got his civil liberties and I have not got mine any more. The suffering goes on."

"I just wanted a bit of justice."



Burstow had been previously jailed for stalking

All stalking victims seem to be in the same position."

The court heard that Miss Morgan first met Burstow when they worked together at HMS Collingwood naval base at Fareham, Hampshire, in 1992.

Miss Morgan, who was married at the time, befriended the petty officer because she felt sorry for him as his wife was serving in the forces abroad.

said Paul Reid, prosecuting.

"An acquaintance developed. Shortly thereafter she found the defendant's attention unwanted and made that clear."

"He was not daunted by this and shortly after commenced a campaign of harassment against her which led to him losing his job and led not only to his being convicted of a series of offences but also being

sent to prison on various occasions."

He was released from jail in June last year and at first appeared to have forgotten about Miss Morgan. But on 6 January she received a birthday card from him and heard that he had been seen near her home in Crowthorne, Buckinghamshire.

He was arrested on 22 January and has been in custody ever since, the court heard.

But Mr Reid said he had asked for the case to lie on file because there was insufficient evidence on this occasion to prove that Burstow had caused her grievous bodily harm.

"This position has not been taken lightly. It has been done after consultation with Miss Morgan who is distressed by it," he said.

When he was convicted two years ago, the court had heard that Burstow had harassed Miss Morgan, stealing her underwear, bugging her house and making menacing telephone calls.

He also broke into her home and stole address books and her wedding video. When she moved he found out immediately where she lived and wrote to her: "Remember this is totally personal and nothing will change how much I hate you."



"The suffering goes on," said Tracey Morgan after Burstow walked free from court

Owen Humphreys

REUTERS

Rewards for universities with low drop-out rates

Computer tracking could end beef ban

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

THE WORLDWIDE ban on British beef should be lifted by the end of this year following the introduction of a £25m computerised cattle tracking system, the Government announced yesterday.

The Agriculture minister, Jeff Rooker, said that the new project, due to begin next month, would offer the final reassurance that the nation's beef was BSE-free.

On a visit yesterday to the British Cattle Movement Service at Workington, Cumbria, Mr Rooker said he hoped the scheme would convince European Union politicians and vets that British beef was safe.

The system comes into effect on 28 September and will include a register of cattle, compulsory cattle tagging and a history of the animal until its death. Any creature that has been in contact with BSE, tuberculosis or other diseases will be identified.

Northern Ireland has had a computerised cattle tracking scheme for about 10 years and the service was a major reason for the lifting of its own export ban.

"We hope for an early lifting of the ban - there is no excuse for it not to be lifted now," Mr Rooker said.

"Certainly we hope that before the end of the year we might get a vote in our favour. It is important that we get this cattle movement service in place."

The new system will affect only cattle born after 28 September, but with 3 million calves born every year, it would soon be a major element of food safety in the UK, he said.

The Government is negotiating with Brussels on a data-based scheme for cattle born after August 1996 and Mr Rooker said he was hopeful that progress would mean a total lifting of the ban.

Tim Yeo, the Conservative spokesman on agriculture, said the new system was very welcome, but the Government was failing to give enough priority to lifting the ban.

"Why, at a crucial time for the industry, is the Secretary of State, Nick Brown, on holiday? A lot of farmers would love to go on holiday at this time of year, yet the man charged with fighting their case in Europe is not around."

"If I had just been appointed to his post, I would be making it my job to have bi-lateral meetings with all my European counterparts as soon as possible."

A spokeswoman for the National Farmers' Union welcomed the creation of the tracking system. "This is yet another example of how Britain sets the highest standards and produces beef that is among the best in the world," she said.

Leeds fails over degree courses

INSPекторs HAVE severely criticised Leeds University after discovering that degrees had been awarded without proper checks.

They found that a course run by the Institute of Communications Studies had not properly consulted external examiners who act as the guardians of university standards.

Leeds is only the second "old" university to have a course effectively failed by inspectors from the Quality Assurance Agency, the body set up to monitor standards in higher education.

The report, published yesterday, found major shortcomings in the university's

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

Bachelor of Broadcasting degree, which is taught and run in conjunction with the BBC.

It said there was "clear evidence of a serious breach of the university's examination regulations." The report continued: "The assessors have no confidence that the operation of the external examiners' system in the Institute of Communications Studies provides the necessary level of assurance of the quality of provision."

The degrees, awarded last year, will stand.

The university defended the course, pointing to a string of top grades for teaching on the course, and insisted the problem was a one-off. A statement said an "administrative oversight" led to degrees being awarded without the external examiner signing off the grades.

It said all the courses making up the broadcasting degree had been subject to external checks, and no changes were made to grades at the final examiners' meeting. Action had been taken to prevent a repeat of the problem.

Inspectors said teaching on the courses was of high quality and praised students' work. The inspectors will return to Leeds within a year to check that improvements have been made.

External examiners are the cornerstone of university degree standards. They are experts in their field, who visit other universities to monitor grades for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

'Hello!' intruded on Sir Paul's grief

BY PAUL McCANN
Media Editor

HELLO! MAGAZINE has been strongly censured by the Press Complaints Commission for intruding into the grief of Sir Paul McCartney in the aftermath of the death of his wife, Linda.

Sir Paul complained to the PCC after photographs appeared in *Hello!* on 30 May, under the headline: "A month after losing wife Linda - Sir Paul McCartney - Getting by with a little help from his children."

The photographs showed Sir Paul walking in Paris with his children, lighting a candle inside Notre Dame cathedral, and eating in a cafe.

Sir Paul told the PCC that he had no idea he had been followed by photographers and said the pictures were "highly intrusive photographs of us in our most

private moments at this very difficult time in our lives."

Maggie Kourou, the editor of *Hello!*, conceded that the photograph taken inside the cathedral should not have been printed, but said they had been added by *Hello!*'s parent company in Spain. She has already written to Sir Paul to apologise.

The Germans never realised their complex ciphers had been cracked, and this gave the Allies a vital advantage as the war progressed.

The Enigma device fits into a wooden case slightly smaller than a briefcase. A keyboard was used to type in the mes-

age, then three wheels encrypted the message according to a key combination. The corresponding letter then flashed on to another keyboard.

Perhaps the most significant use of Enigma was in directing German U-boats in the north Atlantic, where Britain relied heavily on the safe passage of supplies from her North American allies.

Christopher Proudfit, an expert in the field who auctioned the Enigma machine, said: "There are not many left in existence."

Commenting on the price of the machine, which was brought in from France, he said: "It was towards the lower end of the range we expected, perhaps because its wooden case has been refurbished."

A spokeswoman for the National Farmers' Union welcomed the creation of the tracking system. "This is yet another example of how Britain sets the highest standards and produces beef that is among the best in the world," she said.

BY IAN SHOWSMITH

AN ENIGMA coding machine, a vital weapon in the Nazi war effort, was sold for £7,475 on auction yesterday.

The machine, featured in Robert Harris's best-selling novel about British attempts to crack the code, went to a Cheltenham-based dealer at Christie's in South Kensington, London.

Winston Churchill, Britain's wartime prime minister, relied heavily on the work of the cryptologists at the intelligence headquarters at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire.

The Germans never realised their complex ciphers had been cracked, and this gave the Allies a vital advantage as the war progressed.

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age, then three wheels encrypted the message according to a key combination. The corresponding letter then flashed on to another keyboard.

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Hollywood film-makers desert UK

BY PAUL McCANN
Media Editor

THE HIGH value of the pound is threatening the boom in the British film industry by persuading Hollywood studios from using UK facilities.

Last year seven Hollywood films accounted for 54 per cent of the £465m spent making films in the UK, with 108 other films accounting for the rest.

Steve Norris, the British film commissioner responsible for attracting overseas makers, believes the UK will struggle to match that figure this year. "We might hit last year's total, but it looks unlikely."

He identifies the high pound, and more competition from countries such as Australia and Canada, as being responsible for the drop.

"At one time we were one of the few places to have the studios that could handle Hollywood productions but now other countries have built studios and they have weaker currencies and tax-breaks designed specifically for films. Canada gives tax-breaks based on the use of labour, which is often 60 to 70 per cent of a film's cost. And of course Canada has the advantage that locations there actually look like America."

When the British Film Commission was created in 1991 to market UK production expertise and locations, it was the first of its kind. Now 31 countries have their own equivalents. Hollywood producers will often use UK studios if, like the new Star Wars trilogy, most



A scene from Steven Spielberg's latest offering, *Saving Private Ryan*, one of the American productions lured across the Atlantic by the British Film Commission

production is studio-based and the film does not have a US-specific setting. The location can also be decided by a film's stars. "If the leading man wants to get back to Malibu every night to see his new baby, that

could have a greater impact than the value of the pound," said Mr Norris. "But the size of the Hollywood budgets are crucial, because they underpin the entire film industry infrastructure in the UK."

Britain's peak year for film production was 1996, when £561m was spent here by domestic and international filmmakers, up from £300m two years earlier. And Britain's main studios say they are still

attracting Hollywood business. "We have pencil bookings looking forward and have been consistently busy for the last two years," says Christina Sutch, sales and marketing manager for Pinewood, which is making

Entrapment, starring Sean Connery. The next Bond film will go into pre-production at the studio in the next few months. "Obviously, we don't want the pound to get any stronger, but there are a number of factors which dictate whether a film comes here," Ms Sutch added. "Mainly if they have a location shoot, or need the size of our stages and the ability to expand onto new stages if the production grows."

FOCUS ON BRITAIN



Hollywood blockbusters made in the UK, 1997-98:

Lost in Space (above)
New Line Cinema £50m

Saving Private Ryan
Dreamworks/Paramount £43m

Star Wars: Episode I
20th Century Fox £67m

Tomorrow Never Dies
United Artists £67m

The Jackal
Universal £35m

Entrapment
Fountainbridge Films/20th

Century Fox £50m

The Mummy
Universal £45m

The Avengers (below)
Warner Bros £37m



She believes there may have been a slight slowdown in productions this year because a threatened actors' strike in the United States prevented producers from starting projects at the beginning of the year.

Hard water link to childhood eczema

HARD WATER is a major risk factor for eczema in primary school children, according to research published today.

Scientists found that water hardness was more strongly linked with the skin disorder than traffic pollution or any other suggested hazard.

The study, reported in the *Lancet* medical journal, involved 4,141 primary school children and 3,499 secondary school children in southern Nottinghamshire.

Researchers led by Dr Nick McNally, from the University of Nottingham, found that 17.3 per cent of primary school children living in areas with the hardest water had suffered eczema for a year, and 25.4 per cent had had the disorder all their lives.

This compared with 12 per cent of primary school chil-

dren in soft-water areas who had eczema for a year, and 21.2 per cent who had lifetime eczema. The same association between hard water and eczema was not seen among children of secondary school age.

Hard water has been suggested as a risk factor for eczema before, but until now the link had not been scientifically established.

The researchers said the association for primary school children was "highly significant" both before and after adjustment for confounding factors.

Unadjusted lifetime prevalence of eczema was 4.2 per cent higher for areas with the hardest water than for areas with the softest water. Adjust-

ment for age, sex, socio-economic status and distance from the nearest health centre had little effect on the results.

The researchers said: "The effect of water hardness on eczema prevalence is stronger than the reported effects of traffic pollution or any other spatially disparate suggested risk factors for eczema."

The scientists said water hardness may worsen or prolong existing eczema due to calcium and magnesium in the water acting as chemical irritants. Alternatively, there may be an indirect association because more soap and shampoo was needed to obtain a lather in hard water.

The lack of an association between eczema and secondary school children suggested that the effect may be age-related.

Child was killed by weighing machine

BY MELANIE HARVEY

A CORONER yesterday recommended changes to the way some upright weighing machines are made after a seven-year-old child was killed when one toppled over on top of him.

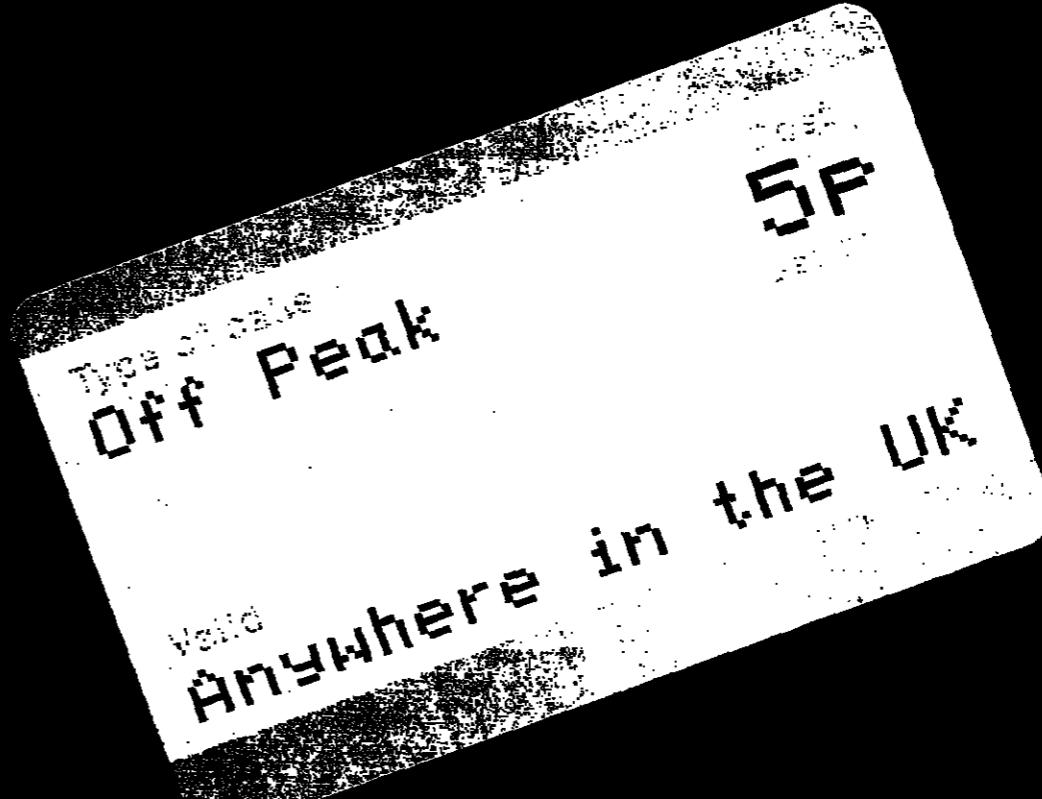
An inquest heard that Jordan Stafford died as a result of a fractured skull after the accident at Macclesfield leisure centre, Cheshire, on Bonfire Night last year. He had been playing on the 65 kg scales when they fell, trapping him.

Recording a verdict of accidental death, Cheshire Coroner John Hibbert said he would recommend to the appropriate body that design changes be ordered to such machines so they can be secured, preventing them from falling over.

Brian Roebuck, an engineering investigator for the Health and Safety Executive, said tests showed the machine "could be pushed or pulled over sideways by a child of five years of age if not secured", adding that "there was no provision on the machine to secure it to the floor or wall".

Roger Livermore, an inspector for the HSE, said the machines had been in use in this country for 60 years and there had never been any previous fatalities. Guidelines would be issued to local authorities about such machines in due course, he added.

The family's solicitor said they intend to look into the possibility of civil proceedings.



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Treasury receives surprise £2bn tax bonus

SELF-ASSESSMENT, the taxation system criticised for its level of dastardly and fiendish complication, raised more than 20 per cent more money in its first year than Inland Revenue experts had expected.

The IR yesterday revealed that self-assessment brought £11bn in the 1997-98 tax year, £2bn more than their experts had estimated.

The increase, which flew in the face of dire predictions in some accountancy quarters, is the equivalent of raising the basic rate of income tax by more than 1p in the pound.

Last night the IR insisted that people were not paying more tax, but factors such as early payment were bringing in more money more quickly. Some experts still suggested the complicated nature of the paperwork might mean people were paying too much money.

"If the extra money is a reflection of the strong state of the economy than that is one thing, but it might simply mean that people are making errors when they are filling in their forms," said Peter Bickley, technical manager with the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Either way, the extra income represents a pleasant boost to the Treasury.

A Treasury spokesman said the amount raised was "slightly" more than expected. The extra income will go into general public sector accounts.

Under the self-assessment system - introduced last year - nine million mainly self-employed and higher earners have to fill in their own tax returns.

The forms consist of many pages and people have to give information about savings,

shares and other income.

Though the IR offered advice for anyone confused by the forms, anyone failing to meet the January 31 deadline faced an automatic fine of £100.

The IR confirmed yesterday that 775,000 fines had been

processed but said this did not mean £77.5m had been raised because some people would not have to pay them.

"Under the system anyone who is fined but has paid all their tax will get a rebate of their fine," said a spokesman.

"It is not the case that people are paying more taxes - they are paying exactly the same."

"Our estimates were very difficult to make because there were a number of factors, such as likely profits an individual might make, which are very hard to calculate."

The spokesman said that next year's estimates would take into account the forecasting error that had been made.

The National Consumers Association, which questioned the introduction of self-assessment, said yesterday that the results raised questions about the fairness of the forms.

"It is hard to believe that people are suddenly becoming more honest," said a spokesman. "The difference between what was estimated and what was actually raised has been large and one wonders whether people are simply getting the forms wrong."

The IR said anyone paying too much tax would either be offered a refund or else have the amount taken off any future tax bill.

Members of the Natural Theatre Company wearing conehead masks teasing a Japanese visitor in Edinburgh's Holyrood Park yesterday. The company will be just one of the 140 Fringe festival acts that will perform in the park this weekend. Jeff J Mitchell/Reuters

Women 'should be allowed to choose Caesarean on demand'

PREGNANT WOMEN should be allowed to choose to have their babies by Caesarean section if they wish to avoid the problems associated with a normal labour, an article in the British Medical Journal says today.

The idea of allowing women Caesareans on demand to fit in with busy lives and avoid the pain and unpredictability of labour without sound clinical reasons, has been frowned on by doctors. But attitudes are changing, according to Sara Paterson-Brown, consultant obstetrician at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea hospital, London.

A clearer assessment of the

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

suaded many women specialists in obstetrics to choose a Caesarean. A study last year showed one in three female obstetricians in London would opt for a Caesarean if given the choice. Other research has shown that Caesareans are popular with women who have had them. Half those who have already had a Caesarean would choose to have another.

The risks of vaginal birth in-

clude damage to the pelvic floor and to the urethral and anal sphincters which can result in incontinence and an increased long-term risk of prolapse of the genitalia. There

is also a risk to the unborn baby with one in 1,500 weighing over 1.5 kg (3lb 5oz) dying during labour. Ms Paterson-Brown says: "Elective Caesarean section cannot guarantee normality but it avoids the above problems by virtue of avoiding labour and prolonged pregnancy."

As reported in The Inde-

pendent earlier this month, the number of Caesareans has grown sharply in the past 20 years to around one in six of all deliveries. The increase has been blamed on the rise in de-

fensive medicine in response to the threat of litigation, although it is not known how many Caesareans are carried out at the

request of the woman.

Recent Government reports have urged doctors to respect women's choices in maternity care and it is unfair for their choices to be discredited because they are not the ones expected, Ms Paterson Brown says. "We are at a turning point in obstetric thinking brought about not only by advances that have made Caesarean section safe ... but also by the attitudes of society which reflect intolerance to risk. We encourage family planning, pre-pregnancy counselling and antenatal screening ... can we do this and then refuse a woman a safe mode of delivery?"

In a response, Ohibusola

Amu and colleagues from Leicester General hospital argue that there are still risks associated with Caesareans including a ten times higher rate of hysterectomy due to haemorrhage. In some women feelings of inadequacy, guilt and failure in not completing a natural process may affect bonding between mother and child, especially if the operation is conducted under general anaesthetic, they say.

They add: "Conflicts be-

tween maternal and fetal in-

terests are potentially complex,

ethically and emotionally, and difficult to resolve." They sup-

port choice for women but say they must be given full and honest advice about the risks and benefits so that they can make an informed decision.

Sexism charge at bank tribunal

A YOUNG woman bank manager made a male worker mop the floor of the branch as part of a campaign of sex discrimination against him, it was claimed yesterday.

Andrew Gilbert, 23, said he was singled out by Kathryn Douse, at 22 the Midland Bank's youngest manager, because he was a man.

Mr Gilbert, who was dismissed by the bank after a period of probation at its branch in a supermarket in Heywood, Greater Manchester, is claiming loss of earnings at an industrial tribunal in Manchester.

He told an earlier hearing that Ms Douse was "rude and patronising" towards him and that he was passed over for promotion. He told the resumed hearing that while there was an informal arrangement among staff for carrying out cleaning, Ms Douse one day said to him: "You to mop the floor today".

Ms Douse denied she had discriminated against Mr Gilbert, who was at the time the only man on the staff.

She told Mr Gilbert, of Handforth, Cheshire, who is representing himself at the hearing, that she did not know of the staff's arrangement, but could not recall ever seeing him cleaning. "The floor needed doing, he was free and I asked him to do it," she said.

Mr Gilbert also claimed that when a female member of staff misplaced her keys she got a "slap on the wrist", whereas he was given two serious verbal warnings for misplacing his.

"I made allowances for everyone," Ms Douse told him in cross-examination. "However, the allowances stop when you lose your keys totally as you did. It was a serious matter."

Ms Douse said he was dismissed for poor performance, a bad attitude and a lack of initiative. He had been late and had breached security procedures over credit cards.

Mr Gilbert accused Ms Douse of "hounding" a previous male employee out of the bank, which she denied. He told her: "You also wanted rid of me because you didn't like working so closely with a man."

The tribunal continues.

SIEMENS

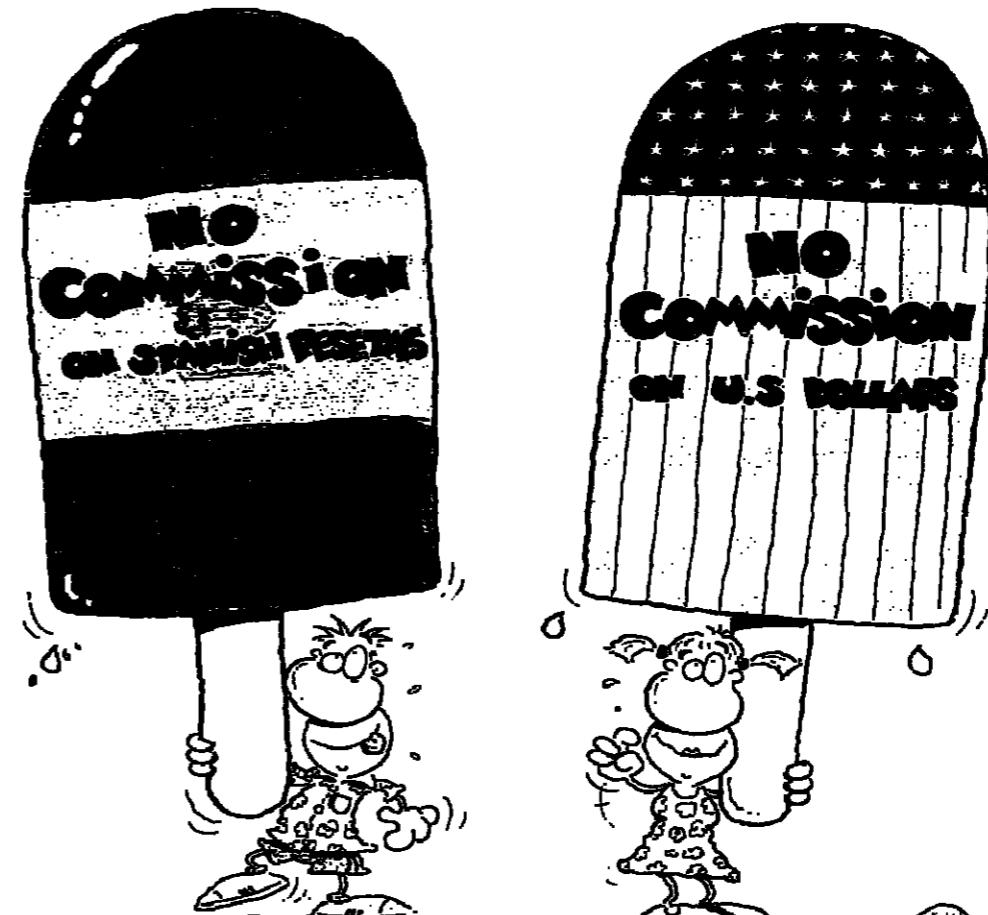
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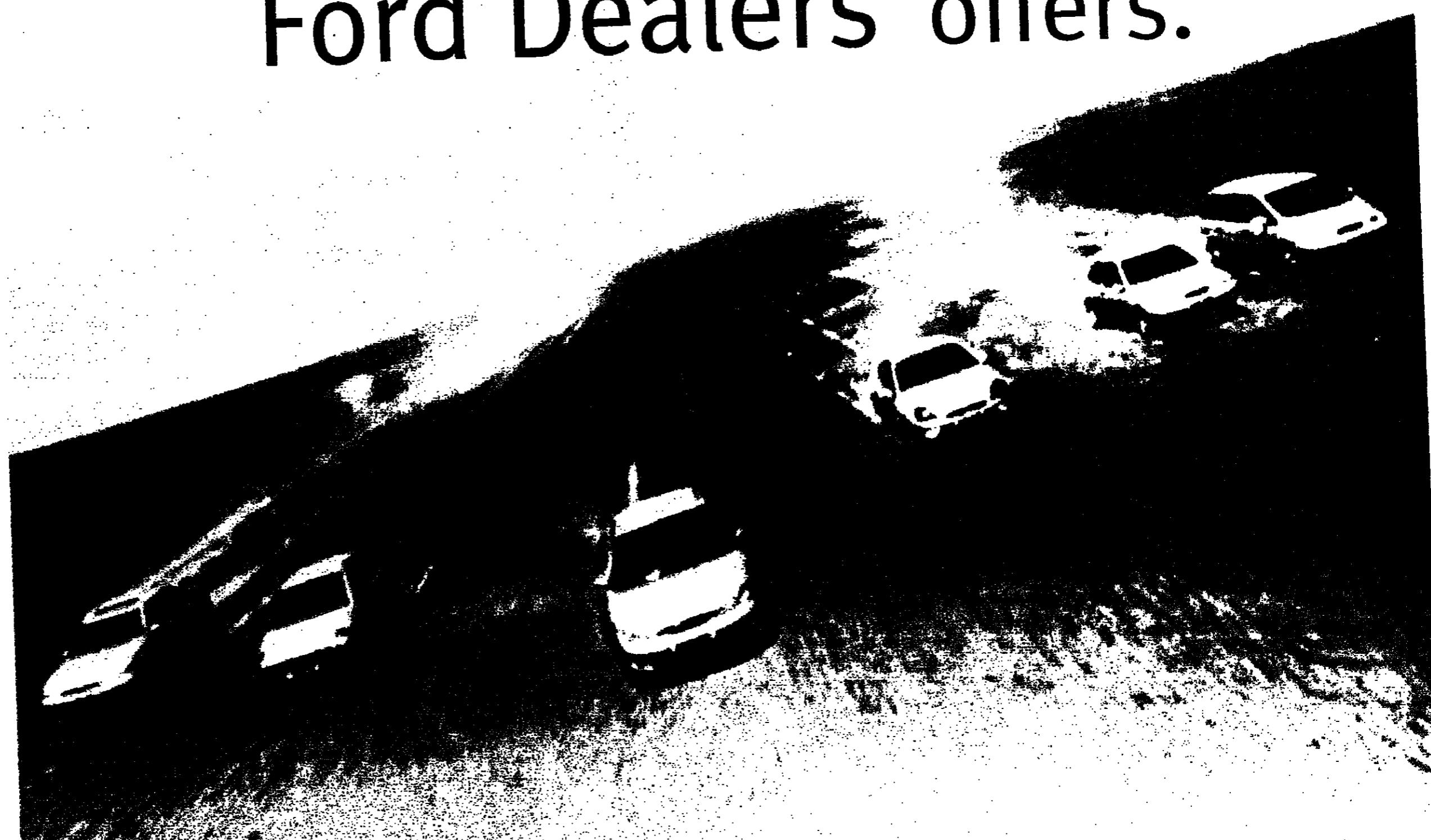
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Dictionary try every trick in the book as they battle for sales

BY KATHY MARSH

A STUNT is defined in *The New Oxford Dictionary of English* as "something unusual done to attract attention". An uncanny apt example is suggested: "The story was spread as a publicity stunt to help sell books."

A press release circulated with that dictionary earlier this week declared that it is now permissible to split the infinitive. The result was a rash of horrified stories in the media, and a pleasing amount of publicity for Oxford University Press's newest product.

Never mind that Chambers, Oxford's sworn rival in the dictionary market, made a similar pronouncement two years ago.

Battle has been joined in the cerebral world of lexicography. Yesterday was publication day for *The New Oxford*. Next Monday the brand new edition of *Chambers* hits the bookshops. Next month sees the updated *Collins English Dictionary*.

The timing chosen by the three leading publishers is not coincidental. Competition has never been so fierce, and this is a crucial period, with the academic year beckoning and Christmas a few months away.

It is a lucrative market - five million dictionaries are sold annually - and the latest skirmish centres on the most profitable part of it: middle-range volumes the "household" size used by families, crossword lovers and Scrabble fanatics.

Talking of Scrabble, who would have thought that a cosy board game would end up as a lethal marketing weapon?

One of the principal boasts of the Chambers dictionary is that it is the game's official reference source. *The Shorter Oxford* surrendered that accolade 10 years ago when it took the ill-advised step of splitting into two unwieldy volumes.

Chambers is the middle-range market leader, but others are snapping at its heels. Perhaps it is defensiveness that makes it brag that its revised version offers "the richest range of the English language from Shakespeare to the present day".

The claims of its competitors

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SELLING POINT	Liberal guide to grammar; many proper names	Official reference guide for scrabble	Usage notes; places; brief biographies	Usage notes; 10 meanings given for "the"
'IN' WORDS	Dweeb, wonk, G-spot, Tamagotchi, phwoah	Bobbit, G-spot, dweeb, wonk	Dweeb, G-spot, wonk	Dweeb
'OUT' WORDS	Bobbit	Phwoah, Tamagotchi	Bobbit, phwoah, Tamagotchi	Bobbit, dweeb
HOW GOOD?	Over-ambitious but almost succeeds	An absolute delight for logophiles	Useful, all-purpose, all-rounder	The benchmark: expensive but reliable
				Good value, basic; no worse for that

are equally absurd. Collins calls itself "the people's dictionary", and portentously describes its updated volume as the "millennium edition". The new Oxford hauls itself a landmark in the description of English.

Updates take place with increasing frequency. The middle-range Chambers, for example, is now revised every five years, reflecting the speed with which language evolves as well as the improved technology for collecting and tracking words.

Dictionaries are similar to baked beans, according to David Swarbrick, marketing director of Oxford Dictionaries. The claims of its competitors

"In this most academic area of publishing, brand is of foremost importance," he said. "This is true of all consumers, regardless of whether they regard a dictionary as a utilitarian product, a work of great scholarship or a method of intellectual hygiene."

Even the lexicographers in their rarified world are aware of the pressures of an increasingly cut-throat market. Judy Pearsall, who compiles for Oxford University Press, says research shows that clarity of entries is of pivotal importance.

It is all a far cry from the world of Samuel Johnson, who slaved away in a Gough Street

during a "trial by ordeal". He also lists endorsements by celebrities such as Michael Palin ("I'd be lost without my Chambers") and Claire Rayner ("Not only do top readers recommend it and lawyers advocate it, but agony aunts adore it").

Even the lexicographers in their rarified world are aware of the pressures of an increasingly cut-throat market. Judy Pearsall, who compiles for Oxford University Press, says research shows that clarity of entries is of pivotal importance.

It is all a far cry from the world of Samuel Johnson, who slaved away in a Gough Street

atting to compile the first dictionary. Johnson would have disapproved of the latest grammatical edict on split infinitives. "I do not teach men how to think, but relate how they have hitherto expressed their thoughts," he wrote.

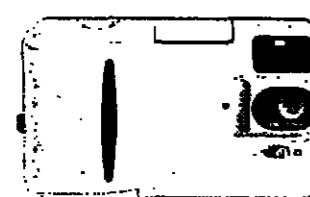
He was, however, addressing only the most literate. "Of the laborious and mercantile part of the people, the diction is in a great measure casual and mutable," he wrote. "This fugitive cant cannot be regarded as any part of the durable materials of a language."

John Sutherland, Review, page 4

Samuel Johnson (left) hated split infinitives, while Judy Pearsall, of Oxford University Press, (right) says clarity is the key to a dictionary's success

Samuel Johnson (left) hated split infinitives, while Judy Pearsall, of Oxford University Press, (right) says clarity is the key to a dictionary's success

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Clinton leads America in mourning

PRESIDENT CLINTON interrupted preparations yesterday for his grand jury testimony on Monday to lead the United States in mourning the 12 Americans killed in last Friday's Nairobi bombing.

Looking sorrowful, at times almost haggard, but always dignified, Mr Clinton paid tribute to the dead, many of whom were young, as "a portrait of America today and of America's tomorrow".

Pledging that "no matter what it takes, we must find those responsible for these evil acts and ensure that justice is done", he told the mourners and the worldwide television audience, "America will not retreat from the world and all its promise, nor shrink from our responsibility to stand against terror and with the friends of freedom everywhere". In the light of Kenyan criticism, Mr Clinton judiciously paid equal tribute early in his oration to the Kenyans and Tanzanians who were also killed.

Mr Clinton was accompanied by his wife, Hillary, and members of the Administration. Tears flowed as they watched 10 coffins, draped in the Stars and Stripes, being unloaded from the plane that had brought them from Germany, and bore each to its own hearse at the edge of an aircraft hanger.

There were hearse also for the two bodies not repatriated with the rest: one, married to a Kenyan, was to be buried in Kenya. The other was repatriated early at the request of her family.

Yesterday's ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base, near Washington, combined the ad hoc and serviceable elements of a military base with the measured ceremonial and high-flown rhetoric of a national tribute.

The Defence Secretary, William Cohen, spoke first and paid tribute to the dead as among those who "serve on the frontline of democracy". The Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, dressed in black like Mrs Clinton, looked exhausted after her 24-hour transatlantic journey to escort home the bodies, but talked tough. Terrorism, she said, is not a form of political expression. "It is certainly not a manifestation of religious faith. It is murder, plain and simple."

Before the 45-minute cere-

mony, Mr Clinton met family and friends of the dead privately, spending more than five minutes with each.

The tears and theatre of national mourning diverted attention, if only temporarily, from two simmering diplomatic controversies. The previous evening, the US ambassador to Kenya, Prudence Bushnell, who was slightly injured in the bombing, disclosed that she had twice in the past year requested a new embassy building in Nairobi for security reasons.

Both requests had been rejected on cost grounds. First in December, then in a direct communication to Madeleine Albright in May, Ms Bushnell "indicated that resource constraints were endangering embassy personnel", the State Department's assistant secretary for administration, Patrick Kennedy, told reporters.

With his voice cracking with emotion, Mr Kennedy said: "Unfortunately, we simply lack the money to respond immediately to all the needs of embassy construction."

Then he dropped the diplomatic language and went on: "Look, I've been a foreign service officer for 25 years. And if anybody thinks that everyone in this department isn't sick about this, they're just wrong. We did the very best we could, given what we had."

He and other senior State Department officials stressed that embassies were graded in terms of their assessed risk factor, and neither Nairobi nor the other embassy bombed, in Dar es Salaam, were deemed high-risk posts.

Ms Bushnell herself went on Kenyan television on Wednesday night to express American sympathy for Kenya's losses - 20 Kenyans were killed for every American - and try to defuse perceptions in Nairobi that Americans had been more interested in helping their own and protecting their embassy than saving Kenyans.

"We were shedding blood. Blood is blood," she said. "We were rescuing people. People are people. There was no determination as to race, religion, ethnic group. We were trying to get as many out as we possibly could."

Before the 45-minute cere-

mory, Mr Clinton met family and friends of the dead privately, spending more than five minutes with each.



William Cohen, Secretary of Defense, Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State, and Hillary and Bill Clinton join mourners in Washington

Blake Sell/Reuters

Bomb unites Kenya's political foes

SEVEN MONTHS after Kenya's presidential elections, the chief opposition leader Mwai Kibaki finally sat down with the man who beat him in the poll and who had since refused to meet him.

In the presidential car that sped to the site of last Friday's bomb blast in central Nairobi, Mr Kibaki chatted with President Daniel arap Moi and other opposition leaders Raila Odinga, Michael Wamalwa and Charity Ngilu. It was their first known group meeting since

BY MANOAH ESIPISSU
in Nairobi

December's elections. They had just held talks at State House and decided to visit the site together to show solidarity with other Kenyans.

The deadly bomb blast, which killed at least 247 and wounded 5,000, has sparked an eruption of patriotism rarely seen in Kenya.

"Call it the positive side of Black Friday for lack of better terminology," the influential

Daily Nation newspaper said in an editorial on Wednesday, which also urged Kenyans not to abandon the unity of purpose forged in the blast's aftermath.

"The rebirth and effusion of nationalism that has been triggered by the madness of international terrorism continues."

"What is one to make of the tremendous response to the appeal for blood? When did a blood donor service anywhere in the world ever turn people away because they had more than enough supply? It has

happened in Kenya," the newspaper added.

Usually divided on tribal lines, politicians have hardly mentioned their ethnic groups in the past six days and such phrases as "our loss" have been frequently heard in their speeches.

Kenya's presidential press service, which traditionally devotes no room to opposition politicians unless they have made a speech in support of Mr Moi, spoke of "exemplary solidarity". The President can-

celled an official tour of South Africa and visited the site four times in as many days to lend moral support to the multinational rescue mission.

The bomb was the most devastating terrorist attack to rock the Moi presidency, which began when he took over from President Jomo Kenyatta in 1978. The only other was a bomb blast at Nairobi's Norfolk hotel in December 1979.

The media hailed the response of ordinary people to the blast, who have turned up to try to rescue their compatriots with their bare hands. The only cloud remained a strike by 12,000 commercial bank staff, protesting at government plans to tax their low-interest loans.

The staff have since been sacked. They have offered to return to work - but only if the government commits itself to scrapping the tax.

Meanwhile, families of bomb victims have been unable to withdraw money to meet medical bills or funeral expenses.

Kosovo edges towards talks

BY PAUL WOOD
in Pristina



Rugova: pushing for peace

ONE OF the Kosovo Liberation Army's commanders sat under the shade of a tree this week, his Kalashnikov rifle resting on his crossed legs, and offered the first glimmer of hope for a negotiated end to the war in Serbia's southern province.

Commander Besniku, a nom de guerre meaning "faithful", insisted the armed struggle had not been weakened by Serbia's recent victories, but said international proposals based on autonomy might be acceptable "for the time being".

Perhaps he was getting closer to the position of the ethnic Albanian civilian leader, Ibrahim Rugova, who yesterday named a team for peace talks to try to end the Kosovo war and called on Serb authorities to negotiate. "We need a climate for negotiations to protect our people," Mr Rugova told a news conference in Pristina.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, congratulated Mr Rugova and called on the Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic to

reach out to the KLA and bring the rebels into negotiations with the Serb authorities.

Besniku, a lawyer and human rights campaigner before he took up arms, was one of those contacted by the American envoy Christopher Hill.

"It depends what kind of autonomy," he said. "Not the kind they can take away whenever they want. I would accept for the time being the kind of autonomy which would give us control."

But no one is expecting a rapid end to the war. Yesterday, Serbian forces were reported to be "mopping up" the remaining pockets of Albanian resistance around the south-western village of Junik, where more than 1,000 civilians are trapped by the fighting. The EU has condemned the Serb assault.

Besniku's own command post is a charred ruin, but the Serb forces have left after occupying it briefly and their troops, smartly dressed in clean uniforms, appeared motivated. "My family fought the Serbs in the rebellions of 1918 and 1944," one of the KLA volunteers said.

quickly draft plans for "genuine self-administration in Kosovo".

The ethnic Albanian newspaper Kola Ditor, known to have close links to KLA, said it received a KLA fax naming Adem Demaqi as its representative for talks with Belgrade.

Mr Demaqi is a legendary figure among Albanians. His 23 years in Serb jail have earned him a reputation as the "Nelson Mandela of Kosovo".

For months the international community, led by the United States, has been trying to

IN BRIEF

Abandoned plane halts Croatian fight against wildfire

EFFORTS TO contain wildfires ravaging Croatia's southern coastline suffered a blow yesterday when one of the nation's few firefighting planes had to be abandoned at sea. Dozens of homes have been razed and two people killed in more than 200 fires that have burned out of control, sweeping the south of the country.

Seoul to free political prisoners

KOREA WAS expected yesterday to announce a sweeping amnesty to political prisoners to mark the 53rd anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese occupation tomorrow. Under South Korea's National Security Law, even possession of Marxist literature can lead to arrest.

Soup extortionist jailed

A GERMAN builder was sentenced to three years in jail yesterday after he admitted trying to extort \$3.6m (£2.2m) with threats to spike Swiss foodmaker Maggi's soups with rat poison.

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DNA clears man of raping tourist

AMAN who was accused of raping a British tourist has been cleared after DNA testing revealed that he was not the attacker, Florida state officials said.

"I was notified by the state attorney's office that based on the DNA testing, my client has been excluded as a suspect," defense lawyer Diana Tennis told the *Orlando Sentinel*.

Kenneth David Taylor could have charges dropped against him immediately.

Mr Taylor, 30, was accused of robbing a British couple in their motel room, forcing them to have sex with one another and then raping the woman.

He was arrested three days after the attack on 13 July after

Paris soars to top of EU wealth list

THE PARIS region has the greatest concentration of wealth and economic power of any area in the European Union, according to a report published yesterday.

The Ile-de-France – essentially Paris and its suburbs and satellite towns – has an economy that is 50 per cent larger than the next wealthiest EU region, which is Lombardy in northern Italy.

Greater London comes third but its gross domestic product is put at £120bn a year only just over half that of the Ile-de-France (£230bn). Greater Paris has a population of 11,000,000; Greater London 7,000,000.

The study is unusual because it ignores the usual method of expressing regional wealth in terms of GDP per head: total annual earnings divided by population. On that basis the Ile-de-France comes only fifth, behind Hamburg, Brussels, Frankfurt and Luxembourg (but still well ahead of Greater London).

The report, produced by the French statistical institute INSEE, seeks to draw a map

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris



of Europe based on concentrations of raw economic power, not the wealth of individuals. On this basis, the greater Paris region stands head and shoulders over all other regions.

Only one other French region – Rhône-Alpes, the area around Lyons and Grenoble – comes in the top 10. Italy has two (the Milan and Rome regions), Germany three (North Rhine-Westphalia, Hesse and Bavaria) and Britain and Spain one each (Greater London and Catalonia). The other region to make the top 10 is the whole of Denmark.

As much as anything else, the study reveals the enormous centralisation of French economic power. The greater Paris region accounts for 25 per cent of the economic production of the country (and 5 per cent of the GDP of the European Union).

The annual economy of the Ile-de-France is double the size of that of Austria. Other

countries have greater disparities between regions in terms of GDP per head but only France has such a concentration of economic power in the centre.

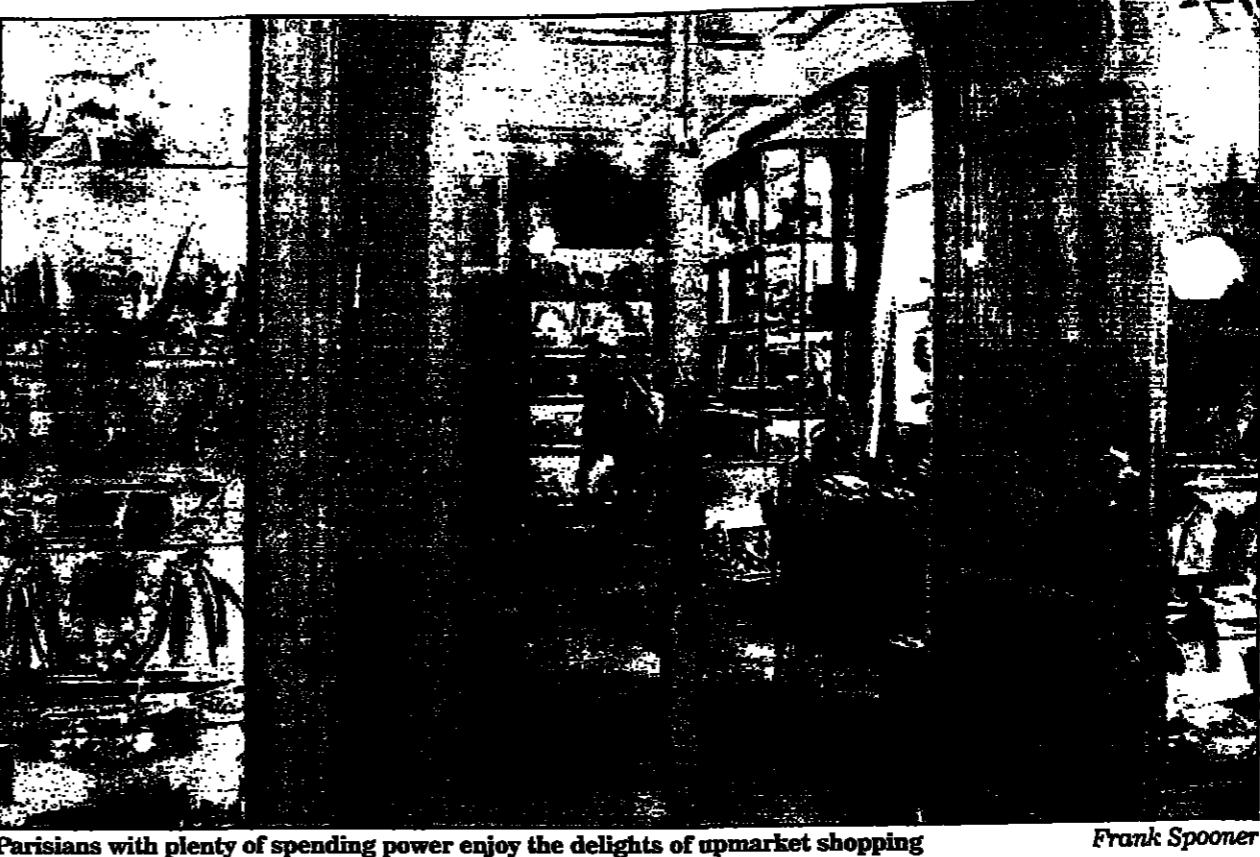
The Ile-de-France, which extends about 50 miles to the east, west and south of Paris and about 30 miles to the north, is far from uniformly rich. It contains some of the most depressed and violent

inner-suburban housing estates in France. It also includes satellite towns such as Mantes and Evry, which have high unemployment and some of the worst social and racial problems in the country.

But it also comprises almost all France's banking and other financial industries, much of the high-tech business and some of the wealthiest and most productive cereal farms in the world (EU subsidies permitting).

The study points to the fact that, with a few exceptions such as the rising economic power of Ireland, the disparities between European regions appear as great as ever. The economic backbone of the European Union – sometimes called the "blue banana" – stretches from London to northern Italy via Belgium, Frankfurt, Munich and Paris.

The poorest EU region, in terms of absolute GDP, is the sparsely populated Alvenanmaa-Aland in Finland. Greece provides five other regions in the bottom 10, Britain none and France one (Corsica).



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Frank Spooner

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Aid staff flee Taliban shells

BY ZAREERUDDIN ABDULLAH
in Kabul

FOREIGN aid workers and hundreds of Afghan families fled territory controlled by the opposition northern alliance yesterday as the Taliban closed in. Witnesses said the airport in central Bamyan was shelled during evacuations.

Even as some fled Bamyan for Kabul and other areas, an aid worker said other displaced Afghans were pouring into Bamyan from Mazar-e-Sharif, the biggest city in the north, which the anti-Taliban alliance lost on Saturday.

Bamyan is surrounded by the Taliban, which cut their opponents' only land supply route on Wednesday by capturing Hayratan, 250 miles from Kabul and bordering Central Asian countries that were once part of the Soviet Union.

The Iranian news agency (Irna) reported fighting near Hayratan yesterday, and quoted the warlord Rashid Dostum, a member of the anti-Taliban alliance, as saying many Taliban were killed. There was no immediate comment from the Taliban.

The Taliban have in the past four years captured most of the country, including Kabul. They appear on the verge of reaching their goal of uniting Afghanistan under a version of Islam that bars girls from school, confines most women to their homes and bans music.

Leading article
Review, page 3

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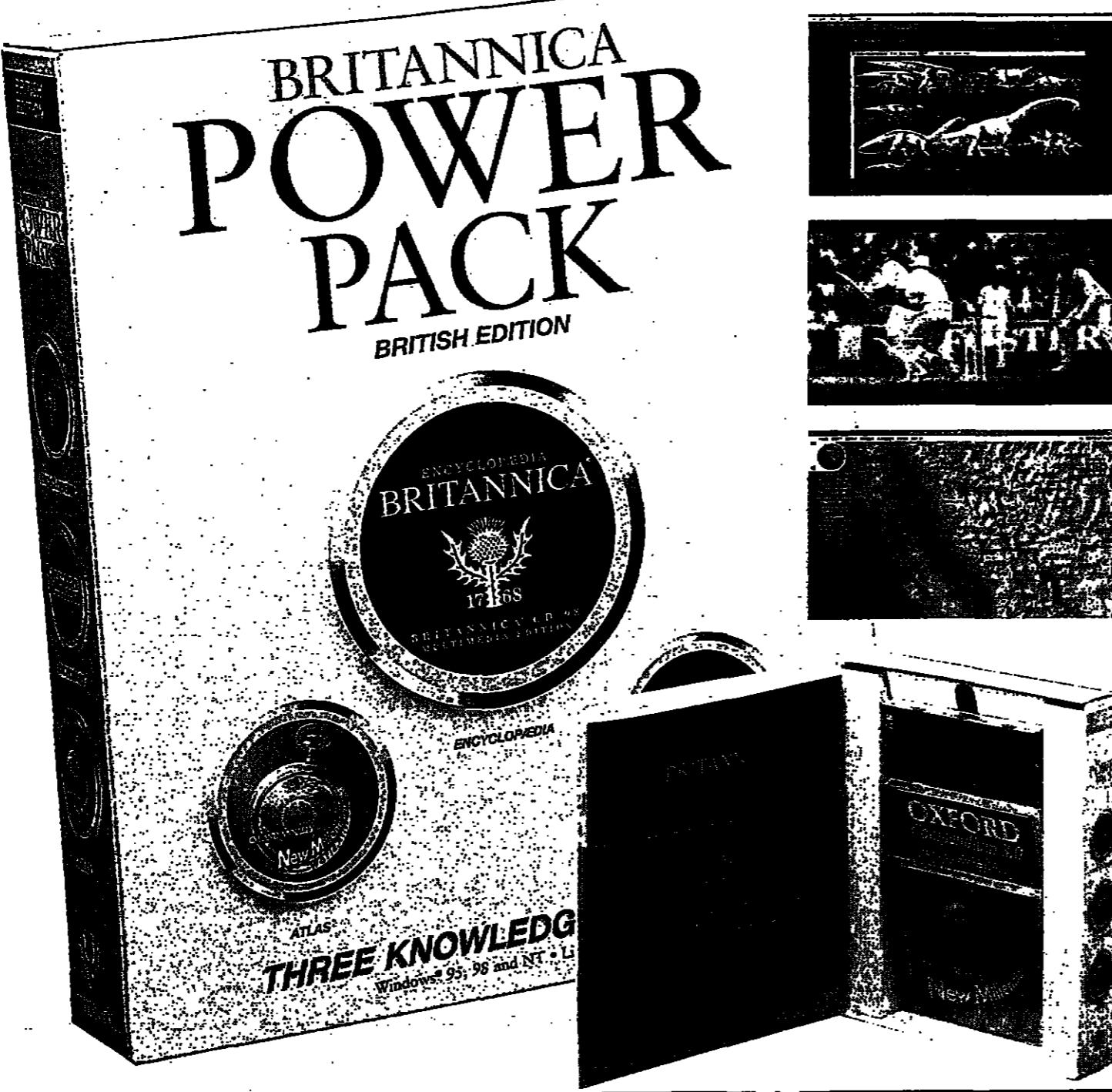
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Flooding erodes order in China

By TERESA POOLE
in Peking

ciplinary arm admitted that some party members and cadres "desert their posts in time of danger" were absent when they should be on duty, [and] did not obey orders from above".

With corruption rife in every field of Chinese life, the party warned of the need "to strengthen the management of departments to make sure that the relief money and goods go to the flooded people".

The extensive television coverage of the floods, on the other hand, mostly shows the heroic efforts of the People's Liberation Army and the supportive efforts of party leaders. Yesterday, it was President Jiang Zemin himself, shown touring the dykes in Hubei province and exhorting the masses to continue their struggle.

China's propaganda chief, Ding Guangen, has ordered the media to "provide moral support" to flood workers.

"More should be done to highlight the civilians, soldiers and officials fighting the floods, and the relief efforts nationwide," he said.

The official death toll has not been updated for almost two



Children living in tents at Wukou, China, after floods drove them out of their homes

Bobby Yip/Reuters

weeks and stands vaguely at "more than 2,000". Casualties in specific dyke breaches are not reported.

The positive spin on flood reporting has produced some ludicrous moments. Earlier this week, the main television

news programme featured footage of a woman squirting breast milk on top of a soldier's head to treat hornet stings he had received in the fight.

With 17.6 million homes destroyed or submerged, and China's GDP growth hit by the

floods, the Xinhua news agency yesterday even tried to present some good economic news.

"The floods delayed some infrastructure projects and weakened consumer spending in rural areas, but the large-scale home rebuilding activity after

the floods is expected to stimulate consumer spending," it said.

Industry, agriculture and even the oil fields have been devastated in the flood zones, and economic losses are estimated at about \$24bn.

The Labour opposition has described the package as un-

fair, saying it takes away from ordinary Australians without giving enough back. Social welfare and consumer groups fear the benefits promised may not be affordable because of the Asian economic crisis.

Basing an election on tax reform is a bold move for a government that so far has had little success in selling its policies to Australians.

Despite winning with a large majority in 1996, opinion polls in June recorded the lowest level of support for the government since the election.

Mr Howard has been regarded by many as a bland leader who lacks vision. His "back to basics" policies, evoking an Australia of the Fifties, have been unpopular with many Australians who feel his approach is too conservative.

The coalition government has particularly lost support among rural Australians, traditional supporters of the National Party, who feel deserted by the government.

Economic rationalist policies have been blamed for taking health and banking services away from the bush and rural Australians are angry about policies such as the government's stringent gun ownership laws, brought in after the 1996 Port Arthur massacre.

According to Gerard Henderson, director of the political think tank the Sydney Institute, the government's biggest failing has been its inability to develop and sell an agenda to tackle the concerns they exploited before the last election.

Premier plans tax revolution for Australia

By JOANNA JOLLY
in Sydney

Although John Howard has yet to announce a date, the conservative Liberal-National coalition government is expected to call an election later this year, having given Australians time to digest the proposed tax changes. If they are passed, Australians will have to pay a broad-based consumption tax for the first time.

The new package proposes to introduce a 10 per cent goods and services tax (GST) by July 2000, which the coalition government estimates will yield A\$27bn (£10bn) in revenue in its first year. Health, education, childcare, rates and charities will be exempt.

To compensate for the tax, the government is proposing a A\$13bn cut in income tax and family-related cuts. Mr Howard described the package as "immensely visionary" and added: "We wanted a broad base, the broader the base, the lower the rate."

This is not the first time a government has tried to introduce a goods and services tax in Australia. In 1993, the opposition conservative coalition lost the election on a consumption tax platform.

Despite stating in 1995 that he would "never ever" introduce a consumption tax, Mr Howard is staking the future of his government on public acceptance of this plan. Business leaders have already given their blessing.

The Labour opposition has described the package as un-

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Island of dreams turns into a jail

EUROPEAN TIMES

LAMPEDUSA, ITALY



Clandestini' detained at Lampedusa L'Ansa

UNTIL RECENTLY there was no ambulance on the island of Lampedusa, only a couple of policemen who dealt with any type of emergency. "Sirens are so rare that if we hear one everyone starts phoning the extended family to check they're all right," says Giandomenico Lombardo, leader of the local hoteliers' association.

Phone bills must have soared over the past couple of months. Milpond seas and fine weather have brought more illegal immigrants than ever flooding across from north Africa to this sleepy Italian island set in a breathtaking sapphire sea.

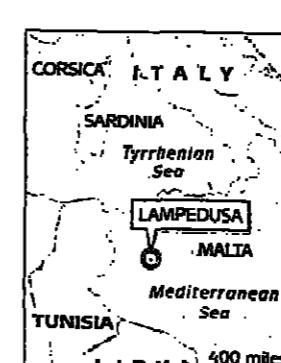
"They go screeching at full speed down the main street in the evening when it's a pedestrian precinct," says Mr Lombardo, shaking his head. "We can't cope with that. This is a slow-moving island. People simply aren't used to leaping out of the way."

Similarly, Lampedusa's 5,000-strong community - which depends on fishing and tourism for its living - is unused to seeing the island portrayed in a story-hungry summer press as a rough, violent outpost of European civilisation. Switch on any Italian television news programme and you'll see deported Tunisians and Moroccans in disorderly ranks on the quay of the pretty harbour as they are searched and registered before being marched off to temporary accommodation in an old barracks near the airport. Or you'll see them transformed into furious aggressors, setting fire to that accommodation as they engage in hand-to-hand combat with the forces of law and order.

Wandering around the island, the scene could not be more different: bronzed, parasol-toting visitors stroll lazily from hotel to beach or buzz round the island in noisy little Mokes. The hotels are packed, the white sand body-

lined, the azure coves dotted with pleasure craft. And if small groups of curious onlookers gather on the quay from time to time as another boatload of aspiring immigrants is brought in, it's only to be expected: the influx has been going on almost non-stop since 1996, and *clandestini* are accepted as part of the scenery. Not so the new high-profile police presence.

"It's overkill," says Mr Lombardo. "All right, so the



numbers of *clandestini* making it over are growing. But we've always got on well with our immigrants. Now that the coast is patrolled more efficiently, they're escorted by coastguards. Before, they used to come ashore by themselves, politely ask the way to the police station, pick up their free ticket to Sicily, and that was the last we saw of them. We'd give them something to eat and drink, or maybe some clothes."

The only trouble there ever was, he adds, was explaining the way to the tiny police station. This year's government crackdown has changed that

happy-go-lucky relationship. *Clandestini* know they face enforced repatriation; police know that their charges might go to desperate lengths to avoid it. Tension is high.

Why Lampedusa, where the economy will founder if tourists are scared away, should have been allowed to become the symbol of this desperation and tension is beyond residents. In the short term, it will not be hoteliers who suffer most but the fishermen who eke out a living with the island's ever-shrinking fleet. "Oh I'll be all right," admits Mr Lombardo. "I do most of my business through agencies, which explain that the whole thing's been blown out of all proportion."

To supplement their meagre income from the sea, fisher-families rent out flats to tourists through the island's summer, which stretches with hardly a cloud in the sky, from May to November.

Many flats will be empty this year, their usual occupants scared away by tales of horror in Paradise. Hundreds of families will find themselves short of money through the winter. Some may be forced to abandon fishing altogether, and the harbour's rows of brightly coloured fishing boats may all but disappear. From being an occasional hiccup in the dozy calm of the summer, the sad spectacle of grim, dour illegal immigrants being marched from port to barracks to airport may come to symbolise the Lampedusa experience. And the tourist trade will begin to feel the pinch.

ANNE HANLEY

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Chief of BiB on-line group quits

THE CHIEF executive of British Interactive Broadcasting, the joint venture which plans to launch on-line shopping and banking services next year, yesterday quit the group after just 10 months in the job. David Hilton, whose resignation was announced yesterday, becomes the second senior executive to quit BiB since it was founded 18 months ago. Last November, Peter van Gelder resigned as managing director after Mr Hilton was appointed above him.

A spokeswoman for BiB said: "David set himself certain goals when he joined here which he has achieved." Mr Hilton's replacement is James Ackerman, the Sky television executive who has been running Sky's joint-venture channels.

BiB was set up early in 1997 to develop interactive services which can be delivered to customers via satellite and cable television. The venture's other shareholders include British Telecom, Midland Bank and Matsushita. The Japanese electronics giant, BiB is providing the subsidy for the set-top boxes required to receive BSkyB's digital satellite television services.

For most of its existence, however, the venture has been locked in negotiations with regulators at the European Commission. It finally received clearance last week, freeing up its shareholders formally to sign the joint venture agreement. It is now expected to sign up a string of large retailers and financial groups to its service.

Huntingdon crashes on return

HUNTINGDON
share price, pence

Source: Datamonitor

SHARES IN Huntingdon Life, the troubled drug testing company, crashed 30 per cent yesterday on their first day of trading after a 10-day suspension. The stock closed down 6p at 13.5p, the worst performer on the London stock market. The shares were restored to the list after Monday's announcement of a refinancing package which involves a £20m cash injection from a group of investors.

As part of the package, which has to be approved by shareholders at an extraordinary meeting on 2 September, Andrew Baker, a 49-year-old accountant, will become executive chairman. Huntingdon has been targeted by animal rights groups and has attributed the loss of lucrative contracts on this adverse publicity.

STOCK MARKETS

Source: Jones Index and graph at [ft.com](http://www.ft.com)

INDICES

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5399.50	-82.00	-1.50	6193.70	4387.80	3.99
FTSE 250	5154.00	-60.30	-1.16	5970.90	4428.30	3.87
FTSE 350	2605.70	-37.90	-1.42	2969.10	2141.80	3.98
FTSE All Share	2539.67	-32.95	-1.24	2886.52	2106.59	3.95
FTSE SmallCap	2333.10	-26.20	-1.11	2793.80	2277.60	3.61
FTSE Fledgling	1274.10	0.00	0.00	1517.10	1225.20	3.72
FTSE AIM	1002.70	0.00	0.00	1146.90	965.90	1.33
FTSE EBOC 100	986.26	-5.63	-0.57
Dow Jones	8480.87	-24.20	-0.28	9367.84	6971.32	1.73
Nikkei	15821.30	3.05	0.02	19466.35	14488.21	0.99
Hang Seng	6660.42	-199.06	-2.90	16555.51	6708.18	6.12
Dax	5356.23	-46.14	-0.85	6217.83	3467.24	3.00

INTEREST RATES

Source: [ft.com](http://www.ft.com)

MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	Yr Avg	10 year	10 yr clg	Long bond	Yr clg
UK	7.73	0.48	7.65	0.15	5.64	-1.46
US	5.68	-0.06	5.72	-0.34	5.42	-0.54
Japan	0.68	0.07	0.66	-0.04	1.48	-0.89
Germany	3.50	-0.24	3.74	-0.18	4.49	-1.22

BOND YIELDS

Index	3 month	Yr Avg	10 year	10 yr clg	Long bond	Yr clg
UK	5.68	-0.06	5.72	-0.34	5.42	-0.54
US	5.68	-0.06	5.72	-0.34	5.42	-0.54
Japan	0.68	0.07	0.66	-0.04	1.48	-0.89
Germany	3.50	-0.24	3.74	-0.18	4.49	-1.22

CURRENCIES

Index	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year	Yr clg
POUND	1.6262	1.5819	1.5819	1.5819	-0.12%
D-Mark	2.0062	1.9597	2.0238	1.9597	-1.0%
Yen	126.80	-1.98	123.41	145.07	-14.96
Euro	105.80	100.00	100.70	94.48	-10.50

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Next Rptg
Stocks (S)	11.63	0.56	18.79	GDP (11.40)	115.40	2.80	112.48	
Gold (\$)	284.65	-2.40	322.45	RPI (163.40)	163.40	3.70	157.57	Aug
Silver (\$)	5.11	-0.14	4.48	Base Rates	7.50	7.00		

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Country	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year	Yr Ago
Australia (\$)	2.6515	2.6515	2.6515	2.6515	2.6515
Austria (Schillings)	19.88	19.88	19.88	19.88	19.88
Belgium (francs)	58.44	58.44	58.44	58.44	58.44
Canada (\$)	2.4126	2.4126	2.4126	2.4126	2.4126
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8287	0.8287	0.8287	0.8287	0.8287
Denmark (kroner)	10.85	10.85	10.85	10.85	10.85
Finland (markka)	8.6573	8.6573	8.6573	8.6573	8.6573
France (francs)	9.4828	9.4828	9.4828	9.4828	9.4828
Germany (marks)	2.0385	2.0385	2.0385	2.0385	2.0385
Greece (drachma)	476.23	476.23	476.23	476.23	476.23
Hong Kong (\$)	12.22	12.22	12.22	12.22	12.22
Iceland (kronur)	1.2121	1.2121	1.2121	1.2121	1.2121
India (rupees)	64.58	64.58	64.58	64.58	64.58
Israel (shekels)	5.5830	5.5830	5.5830	5.5830	5.5830
Italy (lira)	2805	2805	2805	2805	2805
Japan (yen)	234.33	234.33	234.33	234.33	234.33
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.5879	6.5879	6.5879	6.5879	6.5879
Malta (lira)	0.6173	0.6173	0.6173	0.6173	0.6173

SOURCE: Thomas Cook

Soros's Russia comments accelerate markets' slide

MARKETS FELL across the world yesterday after George Soros, the billionaire financier, argued that the Russian rouble ought to be devalued.

Dealers said Mr Soros's

BY LEA PATERSON
in London
HELEN WOMACK
in Moscow
AND STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

of 15 to 25 per cent.

The Russian authorities rejected all suggestions of a devaluation. Mikhail Zadornov, Russian finance minister, said: "If we thought that a devaluation was inevitable, we would not be following our current policy. But it is avoidable."

Traders were today expecting another difficult day in Russia after a series of warnings about the country's creditworthiness from leading credit ratings agencies. Moody's downgraded its evaluation of the country's debt paying ability, while Standard & Poor's low-

ered its long-term counterparty credit ratings on six Russian banks.

The jitters hit almost all the world's stock markets. In the UK, the FTSE 100 closed down 1.1 per cent at 5,395.8, having hit a low of 5,350.3 in early morning trading. In the US the Dow Jones fell 32.44 - or 0.4 per cent to 8,520.52 in late morning trading, erasing a 50-point gain.

Germany was one of the worst-hit European bourses, with worries about the exposure of German banks to Russia. The electronic Xetra DAX ended 0.59 per cent down at 5,355.03 points, off earlier lows. Sentiment was hit particularly hard in the emerging markets, where there were rumours of across the board stock-selling by US institutions.

The dollar and sterling gained during the day as investors sought "safe haven" currencies. At one point the pound gained more than two pence against the mark, while overnight, the dollar spiked above DM1.80 for the first time in a month.

Mr Soros's assessment of the Russian economic position came against a backdrop of re-

newed worries in Asia. In Hong Kong, HSBC Holdings, the parent company of the Midland and Hongkong banks, yesterday led the market down to its lowest level since April 1993. The blue-chip Hang Seng index tumbled 199 points, a loss of almost 3 per cent, and HSBC alone was responsible for 78 points of the fall after a negative broker's report.

In China, official figures were released estimating that the current flooding of the Yangtze River could cost China's economy some \$24bn and threaten the 8 per cent economic growth target.

OK, but what's in it for George?

BY LEA PATERSON

has he already placed a bet that the rouble will fall? Or given the market reaction yesterday, that world stocks will fall?

Hungarian-born Mr Soros has made his fortune by betting on currency - and occasionally commodity - movements. A well-known philanthropist, he shot to fame in the late 1980s when he bet that the Tokyo market would fall further than New York, a prediction that, eventually, turned out to be true.

Mr Soros, 67, became a household name in the UK in 1992 when he made \$1bn (6510m) or so by predicting that sterling would fall out of the ERM. By the 1990s the name Soros only had to be vaguely linked to a currency, or commodity, for there to be a marked market reaction.

Thanks to his mythical status, Mr Soros now - at least in theory - can engineer win-win situations. Bet correctly on a currency, and you are hailed a hero, and this simply adds to your reputation. Bet incorrectly, and let it be known that you believe a currency will fall. This is precisely the reason why

the markets greeted Mr Soros's FTT letter with such scepticism.

His motives aside, is his analysis of the Russian problem correct? The most immediate problem facing the Russian government is a liquidity crisis.

The state has insufficient revenues to service its short-term debt. As Marc Chandler from Deutsche Bank in New York explained, the most recent IMF loan to Russia totalled \$4.8bn, of which \$2.2bn was to cover the short-term needs of the Group of Seven to put up its debt alone, and after that, it needs reserves to prop up its troubled currency.

Russia is caught in a vicious circle - it has insufficient funds, so investors bail out of the coun-

try. This puts downward pressure on the rouble - meaning the central bank has to squander valuable resources to defend the currency - and makes it harder for Russia to raise funds by selling long-term bonds.

As Mr Soros suggests in his letter, without drastic measures Russia will print money to service its debt - a move which could lead to hyperinflation or Russia could default.

Mr Soros says either of these options would have "devastating financial and political consequences". Most experts believe he is probably right.

To avoid this, Mr Soros recommends devaluation. But devaluation brings new problems.

First, says Stephen Lewis, chief economist at Monument Derivatives in London, many Russian banks have outstanding forward contracts, meaning that they have agreed to buy back dollars at a agreed point in the future at a specified dollar/rouble exchange rate. If there were a devaluation, then the banks would have to lay out proportionately more roubles to meet contractual obligations. So a fall in the rouble may alleviate one type of liquidity crisis, but could well cause another.

Another problem is the effect on confidence, both of residents and of foreign investors. A sharp fall in the rouble would render the savings of many Russians almost worthless in foreign currency terms.

Mr Soros says a modest devaluation should be followed by pegging currency to the euro or dollar. But the problem with this, to borrow a phrase from Margaret Thatcher, is that "you can't buck the market".

Mr Soros's diagnosis of the problem in Russia is undoubtedly correct. His cure is more questionable - most independent experts seem to agree there is no quick fix to Russia's problems, and the long-term solution lies in structural and political reform, not devaluation. And as for Mr Soros's motives - his track record, it is probably fair to say, speaks for itself.

What the Soros letter said

SIR: The meltdown in Russian financial markets has reached the terminal phase. Bankers and brokers who borrowed against securities could not meet margin calls and forced selling swamped both the stock and the bond markets. The stock market had to be temporarily closed because trades could not be settled; prices of government bonds and Treasury bills fell precipitously. Although the selling was temporarily absorbed, there is a danger that the population will start again to withdraw funds from savings accounts. Immediate action is required.

The trouble is that the action that is necessary to deal with a banking crisis is diametrically opposed to the action that has been agreed with the International Monetary Fund to deal with the budget crisis. The IMF programme imposes tight

Richard Branson's private dilemma

THE HARDER they come, the harder they fall, one and all, as the singer Jimmy Cliff once put it. Jimmy was not one of Richard Branson's recording artists but the Virgin boss must get the idea.

This has not been one of Richard's better years. It began on an upbeat note with the High Court libel victory over Guy Snowden but it has been downhill since then. Both the *Economist* and the *Spectator* have taken swipes at the bearded one.

Shares in his airline business Virgin Express have begun to slide and his sale of a half stake in Virgin Rail to Sir Souter was depicted as an act of desperation rather than a stroke of entrepreneurial brilliance. Now, he has been taken to task across two broadsheet pages by the *Financial Times*.

The Branson empire, so the *Pink'Un* tells us, is cash flow negative and has a habit of destroying health rather than creating it. Judged against the fashionable theory of economic value added, Virgin fails the test.

That is to say, its cost of capital outstrips its return on capital in the shape of profits to the tune



OUTLOOK

of nearly £40m. What is more, the margin Virgin has to service its debts is becoming uncomfortably slim.

According to the *FT*, interest cover is now down to 1.2 times which would be uncomfortable even for a staid old public utility let alone a group operating in highly volatile or cyclical markets such as air travel, retailing and entertainment.

Should any of this bother us? After all, people are still buying records in Virgin Megastores, boarding his Virgin Atlantic flights and buying his Virgin Direct Peps. What is more, there are precious few small investors to worry about

since the vast bulk of the Virgin empire remains in private hands and safely obscured behind a Byzantine structure of offshore trusts in the Channel Isles and British Virgin Islands. If Mr Branson falls, the crash will be mighty but at least he won't take many others down with him.

That rather presupposes he is heading for the drop. Mr Branson has been in tight spots before and got out of them. In 1992, with the tide of recession lapping at Virgin's shores, he sold the Virgin music publishing business to EMI for £510m.

In part, the proceeds were used to help pay off the debts he had accumulated by taking Virgin private again after its brief experimentation with a public listing. In part the proceeds were used to fund his cash hungry new ventures like the airline.

This time around, the nature of the problem is rather different. Mr Branson has learnt the lesson of gearing up too heavily just as the downturn arrives and has cleverly made sure that joint venture partners have stumped up the bulk of the cash. He has also ringfenced each of the Virgin businesses to

avoid cross contamination. This means that if one business gets into trouble, it does not have a call on another.

Even so the demands on Virgin's financial resources are piling up. Even with Stagecoach sharing half the burden, Virgin Trains will require a lot of capital while Mr Branson has to find £145m to fund his purchase of WH Smith's 75 per cent share of Virgin On Price. Then there are the cash demands of Virgin Cinemas, the new record company V2 and Virgin Trading.

In the past Mr Branson has sold his past to finance his future.

The obvious solution this time would be a public listing for Virgin Atlantic and perhaps Virgin Entertainment. But a flotation would mean an unwelcome return to the sort of disclosure and transparency requirements from which Mr Branson fled in the late 1980s. That is why he is seeking the alternative route of a high yield bond issue this autumn to raise as much as £300m. Will the capital markets buy it?

It is a matter of trust and judgement for, as the *FT* notes, it is impossible for an outsider to assess

the full extent of Mr Branson's resources or his profitability.

The man who moves markets

GEORGE SOROS surely didn't intend to cause the Russian stock market to close its doors for business with his letter to the *Financial Times* yesterday warning of financial and economic meltdown in the former Soviet Republic. The trouble is that when someone as high profile in financial markets as Mr Soros makes these doomsday utterances, particularly in a situation as fragile as that faced by Russia, they tend to become self fulfilling.

Anything Mr Soros says or does has to be treated with the utmost suspicion. He seems much to prefer these days the business of travelling the world pontificating on matters of great importance to that of his trade as an international speculator.

Who wouldn't? And because financial markets rule all our lives as never before, everyone takes him very seriously, lapping up his pearls of wisdom.

But it should not be forgotten

that though Mr Soros has tended in recent years to take a back seat in his various hedge funds, he is not entirely divorced from them. Very often, he's talking his book.

All that said, we can perhaps give him the benefit of the doubt in this case. Actually Mr Soros has been a heavy investor in rouble assets, and although he's sold down a lot of them in recent months, it can hardly hurt his position to plunge the country into further turmoil. Moreover, both his analysis of the situation and his prescriptions for it seem to make a great deal of sense.

By devaluing, the IMF's dollar loans to Russia become worth more and the government would become that much more capable of servicing its rouble debt. As Mr Soros says, the outlook in the absence of such a move looks bleak.

Either there is a wide-scale default which would have catastrophic consequences both for the country and the wider international community, or the government would be forced to print money to pay its debts, leading possibly to hyperinflation.

More contentious is Mr Soros's suggestion that immediately after the devaluation, the G7 provides

IN BRIEF

Home loans soar to four-year high

HOME LOAN advances soared to their highest level in four years in July, according to Barclays Mortgage Index. Gross lending rose 18 per cent to over £2bn compared with under £2bn in the same month a year ago.

But the chief of Barclays Mortgages, Jim Chadwick, said the growth was largely fuelled by remortgages based on competitively-priced fixed rates. The market continues to give mixed signals, with house prices showing modest increases but turnover weak and a shortage of properties for sale.

Administration

ALLENWEST BRENTFORD, which has 150 employees and makes and installs power conversion equipment worldwide, has passed into administration.

Joint administrative receivers, Ralph Preece and Nick Dargan of Deloitte & Touche, say the rest of the Allenwest Group continues to trade as normal. "Allenwest Brentford has experienced trading difficulties for a prolonged period of time," they say. "We are currently assessing its ability to continue to trade and hope to sell the whole or part of its operations as a going concern."

Vote on Fosters

FOSTERS Trading Company, with 40 menswear shops and 600 staff, is to be handed back to the directors after four months in the hands of BDO Stoy Hayward administrators. A vote by the company's creditors has sanctioned the handover.

Turnover at the stores in the four months of administration was nearly £30m, compared with £35m for the 173 stores running in 1997. Once the handover is complete there will be over £5m available for distribution to creditors.

US sales fall

US RETAIL sales fell in July as strikes shut down most of car maker General Motors' plants. Excluding cars, sales rose for the sixth time in seven months. July sales fell a smaller-than-expected 0.4 per cent to \$224.7bn (£138bn). The first fall in nine months - after rising by an unadjusted 0.1 per cent in June.

Excluding cars, July retail sales rose 0.5 per cent after falling 0.1 per cent in June.

Consumers shop around for best electricity deals

By MICHAEL HARRISON

THE SWITCH was pulled on electricity competition yesterday, with the announcement that 750,000 households will be allowed to shop around for a different supplier a month from now. Price reductions are likely to be in the region of 5 to 10 per cent.

Domestic competition will be launched on 14 September in 13 towns spread across four regions of the country. Initially, 10 per cent of households in each region will be able to switch supplier with the remainder of

the area opened up to competition over a six-month period. The full roll-out of competition to all 26 million domestic and small business users will not be completed until next June - 15 months later than originally planned. The cost of the exercise will be £726m, or £33 for every household.

The first four areas to be opened to competition next month will be the regions covered by Eastern Electricity. The domestic gas market began being opened up to competition in 1996. According to figures released yesterday by Ofgas, more than 3 million customers have deserted British Gas since then, tempted by offers of up to 20 per cent of their bills from rival suppliers.

British Gas, which has been waiting for two years to attack the electricity market, said it had already signed up 300,000 customers while a further 1.5 million had registered their interest in buying electricity from it.

The domestic gas market began being opened up to competition in 1996. According to figures released yesterday by Ofgas, more than 3 million customers have deserted British Gas since then, tempted by offers of up to 20 per cent of their bills from rival suppliers.

Electricity suppliers have been fined for the delays in introducing competition, but a committee of MPs said last month that the level of penalties was inadequate.

The towns where competition will be introduced on 14 September are: Norwich, Fakenham, Lowestoft and Cromer (Eastern Electricity); Chester, Mold and Holywell (Manweb); Motherwell, Airdrie and Lanark (ScottishPower); Hull, Hornsea and Beverley (Yorkshire).

Outlook, this page

£1.5bn deals help revive PFI

By FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THE PRIVATE Finance Initiative (PFI) - the Government's scheme to encourage private firms to invest in public projects - received a twin boost yesterday with the award of two contracts totalling more than £1.5bn.

An alliance of Seeboard, the regional electricity group, BICC, the cable giant, and the Swedish engineer ABB won a £1bn contract to refurbish and maintain London Underground's power distribution network. In a separate deal, a consortium led by Alfred McAlpine, the construction group, won a 35-year contract, worth £250m, to build and operate a new hospital in Wythenshawe, south Manchester.

The London Underground contract involves the construction of a high-voltage cable network covering around 400km of tracks, to distribute electricity to every Tube station in the capital. At present, the bulk of the Underground's electricity is generated by two power stations. But within two years London Underground will be free to buy electricity directly from suppliers and distribute it through the new network.

Under the terms of the Manchester deal, the McAlpine-led consortium, which includes project manager WS Atkins, will build and maintain a 320-bed

acute care unit and a 77-bed mental unit. Although the total cost of the buildings, expected to open in 2001, is only £56m, the contractors are set to gain £520m in fees for maintaining the facilities for 35 years.

Under the PFI, private firms undertake to provide part of the capital and to take on some of the risks associated with building

acute care unit and a 77-bed mental unit. Although the total cost of the buildings, expected to open in 2001, is only £56m, the contractors are set to gain £520m in fees for maintaining the facilities for 35 years.

The scheme has proved a

success in roadbuilding. But in the health sector, the initiative has been dogged by contractual disputes between private firms and NHS authorities. The Labour government has pledged to revive the PFI in the health sector and has promised to begin construction on 15 new hospitals by the end of the year.



London Underground's power distribution network is to undergo a £1m refurbishment

Severn Trent gets ready by buying names

By MICHAEL HARRISON

THE WATER company, Severn Trent, has bought up the names of 19 other water companies around the country in a bid to snatch business from its rivals if the industry is ever opened to competition.

A Severn Trent spokesman confirmed yesterday that it had registered the names of eight water companies outside its area and a further 11 inside its own territory. Most of the company names cover large cities.

Severn Trent said it had no immediate plans to start trading under the new names, but the spokesman added: "We follow the motto 'Be Prepared'. Severn Trent means something to customers inside our own area but to those outside it may mean nothing at all."

The names, published in the magazine *Utility Week*, includes Manchester Water, Midland Water, Norwich Water, Leeds Water, Sheffield Water and Capital Water for London.

The names were registered two months ago to an address at Severn Trent's headquarters

Beer comes in 13/4 pint glasses.

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Women stuck on lower wages

By TREVOR WEBSTER

INGS on a British Household Panel Survey between 1992 and 1995, and dismiss the popular view that women are promoted less than men because of a "glass ceiling" of covert discrimination. They even suggest women might have a slight edge in the promotion stakes because in that period full-time male workers had only a 9.2 per cent chance of promotion compared to 11.6 per cent for full-time women.

But at that point they believe discrimination against women takes its toll. Promoted men re-

ceive wages 20.4 per cent higher than un promoted men, whereas promoted women gain wages only 9.8 per cent higher than un promoted women.

It gets worse on the way up the career ladder. For otherwise identical men and women, if both experienced three promotions, a man would gain real wage growth of 32 per cent, while a woman would gain only 7 per cent. "We assume that there is discrimination in the sense that women in the post-promotion job are treated as being less productive than men, even though, objectively, their productivity is exactly the

same," the authors stated.

"The guaranteed wage increase on promotion provides a comparable incentive to both

men

and

women to train, and therefore there are comparable promotion rates. However, since the firm does not put the same value on women as men in the post-promotion job, it is less likely to match outside wage offers. As a result, promoted women receive lower wage increases over time than men."

Other findings are that both men and women are more likely to be promoted if they work longer hours, and professional and managerial workers are

more likely to be promoted than unskilled workers.

Ms Booth said: "We use the term 'sticky floors' to describe the situation where women are promoted and receive a wage increase, but then find it hard subsequently to gain higher wages. While some women can get through the 'glass ceiling', they remain stuck to the promotion wage floor after that."

"Over 189-95 men continued to gain from past promotions, while women did not. The dynamic effect of promotion on wage growth is therefore likely to exacerbate the already large gender gap in wages."

Business
Bring
Kane
Others

Danke
merge

Business Post brings back Kane brothers

BY TREVOR WEBSTER

BUSINESS POST, the fast-growing express parcels and letter delivery group, is back in the firm grip of its founders, brothers Peter and Michael Kane, after a major shake-up in the boardroom.

Trouble was signalled a fortnight ago at the group's annual meeting when the chairman, Neil Benson, disclosed that managing director Mick Jones, was leaving "to pursue other interests" and Peter Kane would return as an executive director from 1 September.

There are also plans to appoint two new non-executive di-



Peter Kane returns as executive director after two executives decided to quit

rectors shortly to replace the Kane brothers in those roles.

Shares in the group, which slumped from a June peak of 97.5p to around 62p after selling by Mr Jones and Mr Montague-Johnstone and the annual meeting statement, plunged another 52.5p to 57.5p as the scale of the board shake-up became clear yesterday.

Peter Kane expressed his re-

gret that Mr Jones had decided to quit, but emphasised that

it was "a personality matter, not a business-related decision".

He said that Mr Montague-Johnstone was seeking other opportunities.

Mr Kane was also at pains to

stress the good track record of

the business and its continued

buoyancy, high operating margins and improving sales. He

highlighted the 17 per cent rise

in first-quarter sales reported at the annual meeting and "solid organic growth", but

warned that this year would see

more bias than usual towards the second half.

Peter Kane, 52, and Michael

founded Business Post in 1971

and still own a combined 63.5

per cent. They floated their

shares in June 1993 at 120p and

stepped down as chairman and

chief executive in 1996 and 1997

respectively.

Analysts expect group prof-

its to rise from £19.5m to £22.5m

in the year to March 1999.

Ceramics group in fourth profit warning

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

FORTMEIRION Potteries, the troubled ceramics group, showed further cracks yesterday when it issued its fourth profit warning in the space of 12 months.

Fortmeirion warned that profits for the year to December would "inevitably" be below those of the previous year, knocking its shares down 12.5p to a new five-year low of 190p.

Meanwhile, the company revealed that it had paid out £393,000 in "compensation costs and professional fees" to two ex-directors, including Mary-Lorraine Hughes, the former chief executive who quit Fortmeirion after its June profit warning.

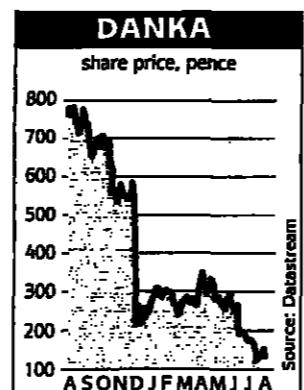
The pay-offs helped to explain the sharp fall in Fortmeirion's first-half profits, which slumped by 62 per cent to £1.05m. Turnover slipped by 18 per cent to £13.3m. It blamed the shortfall on "increasingly competitive and difficult trading conditions" throughout the first half. In previous statements, the company has blamed poor results on the strong pound, which discouraged tourists from visiting the UK.

The company is planning a further announcement in October about its vacant chief executive's position. Kamal Farhadi, a director, has been acting chief executive since Ms Hughes left.

Fortmeirion said it was planning extensive advertising campaigns in the United States and the UK to boost sales. It said the UK campaign, which was drawn up with the help of consultants, would focus the brand on "contemporary lifestyles" and support its Options line, which was launched earlier this year.

Euan Cooper-Willis, the chairman, said the company's strong balance sheet would allow it to develop and market a major new collection while maintaining an investment in new plant and equipment.

The company said that despite the shortfall it had decided to hold its interim dividend at 3.5p per share.



allow for more financial flexibility". Danka has more than £450m of debt on its balance sheet. In the first quarter, operating profits covered its interest bill less than two times.

Mark Vaughan-Lee, the Danka chairman, blamed the profit fall on problems integrating Kodak Office Imaging, the photocopier distribution business bought in 1996.

He said the company had suffered problems motivating its sales force in the US after introducing a new bonus scheme. However, he added that the sales force was now beginning to accept the new scheme. "We are right in the middle of a very expensive integration plan," said Mr Vaughan-Lee.

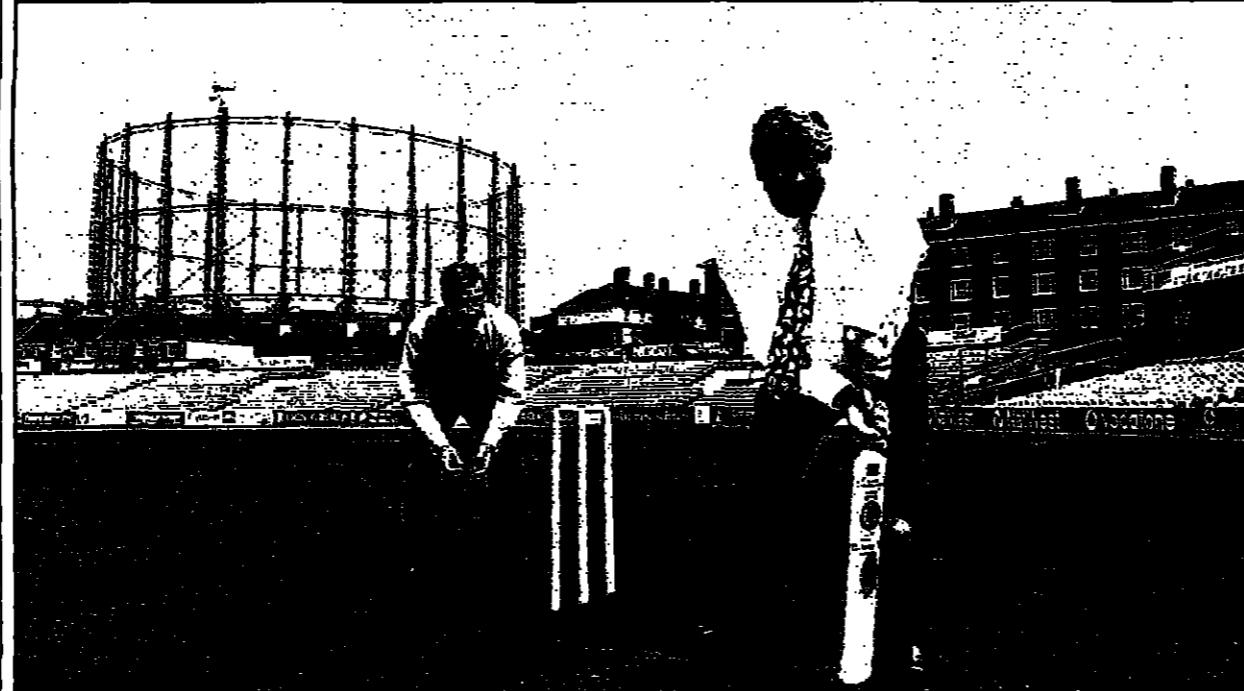
Danka was also hit by the falling yen, which allowed Japanese copier makers to offer discounts for large contracts.

Mr Vaughan-Lee said that shifting Kodak's operations on

to Danka's computer system should be completed by the end of the year, allowing more cost savings. He added that the company had already reduced its workforce by 700 out of the 1,000 redundancies planned at the time of the acquisition.

Danka has found a new chief financial officer and plans to name him later this month. The company has appointed two senior executives in the US.

Mr Vaughan-Lee stressed that despite Danka's problems, the board remained supportive of the management team. "We are putting the company into the position of being one of the top document management companies in the world. But it's a question of time."



Michael Bright (batting), chief executive, and Garth Ramsay, chairman of Independent Insurance, the fast-growing composite insurer and insurer of the Oval, home to Surrey cricket club. The group is looking at a number of acquisitions to bolster its fledgling European

business, the chief executive, Michael Bright, said yesterday.

The company is targeting the French

and Spanish markets where it already has a presence. Mr Bright said an acquisition on the Continent was more likely than a UK purchase. His comments came as Independent Insurance reported an interim operating profit of £22.7m, slightly ahead of last year's £22.3m on gross premiums down to £250.5m from £269.9m.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	Ex-Dividend
Flastock (F)	85.8m (51.04m)	1.02m (5.11m)	1.84p (-3.85p)	-	30.10.98	21.09.98
Independent Insurance (I)	-	32.5m (25.5m)	11.3p (7.3p)	1.5p (1.25p)	27.11.98	24.08.98
Justerini & Brooks (I)	11.93m (14.05m)	-0.65m (4.71m)	-5.3p (24.1p)	2.0p (2.0p)	-	-
Montague-Johnstone (I)	10.17m (7.53m)	-1.23m (8.22m)	-1.12p (1.1p)	10 (0.4p)	-	-
NTAS Petroleum (I)	-	-0.73m (-0.587m)	-0.8p (-0.5p)	10 (0.4p)	-	-
Oxford Biomedica (SPV)**	5.0m (0.8m)	-1.03m (-1.25m)	-2.0p (-2.1p)	-	22.10.98	14.09.98
Portmeirion Pottery (I)	13.25m (16.15m)	1.05m (2.74m)	0.68p (17.31p)	3.25p (3.25p)	-	-
Reaves Group (I)	2.95m (0.58m)	-0.47m (-5.94m)	-0.7p (-5.25p)	-	-	-

(F) - Real (I) - Interim (SPV) - Net Profit **EPS is pre-exceptional. *Dividend to be paid as a FD. Latest figures for 6 mths, comparatives 9 mths

Shares slide as Vaux denies takeover talks

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

VAUX'S SHARES slumped 11 per cent yesterday, wiping £50m from the pub-to-hotel group's market value after the company denied that it was in takeover talks.

In a terse six-line statement, Vaux, owner of the Swallow Hotels chain, two breweries and about 700 pubs, put an end to two weeks of intense bid speculation which had led to a sharp rise in its share price.

Vaux "is not in any discussions which may lead to an offer for the company, or which relate to any of the group's assets," the statement said.

The announcement triggered a wave of selling that left

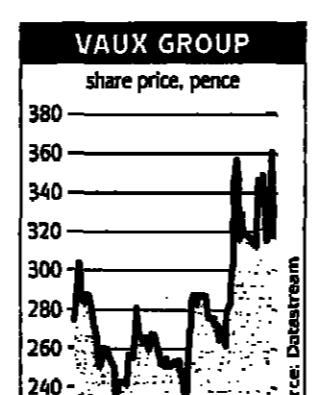
Enterprise Inns, which was

mentioned as a bidder.

The two companies have been periodically linked with Vaux since June when the Sunderland-based group announced the breakdown of talks discussions with a bidder - widely believed to be the hotel group Stakis.

The rumour mill had indicated that Whitbread as a possible suitor suggesting that the brewing giant could be interested in bolstering its Marston's Hotel and Travel Inns hotel chain through the acquisition of Swallow.

According to the rumours, Whitbread would be likely to offload Vaux's pub estate with



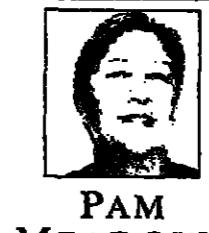
pub estate," one observer said. However, other experts said that the new chief executive, Martin Grant, who was recently recruited from Allied Domex, could choose to spin off the Swallow business and float it on the market as a stand-alone business.

Mr Grant yesterday was

unavailable for comment. The last day of the month, after schools broke up and with the weather remaining chilly, also established a new daily record with 402,000 passengers streaming through BAA airports.

Last month's growth was inflated by the impact of last summer's strike at British Airways, which reduced total

Why so many drop out of the New Deal



PAM MEADOWS

Young people who don't need much help are getting too much, and others not getting enough

term view. It targets those whose youngest child is at primary school, but only offers help in finding a job.

Research evidence suggests that lone parents who have some educational qualifications are more likely to be working than those who do not. As a result, lone parents dependent on income support are likely to have few or no educational or vocational qualifications. This in turn means that their potential earnings are relatively low.

However, this does not mean that they do not want to work at some time in the future. The one thing that would

equip them to meet that ambition would be the opportunity to improve their qualifications and equip them for the modern labour market. Better qualifications would also help them to keep a job once they have got one, and to make subsequent career progress. Reducing benefit dependency among lone parents is a long-term ambition.

Captains of industry and small firms alike have been enthused and come forward to offer placements for the unemployed 18 to 24 year olds who are the New Deal target group. Their enthusiasm has partly been fuelled by the subsidies available. But some of their motivation seems to stem from a willingness to look to new sources of recruitment as old ones dry up.

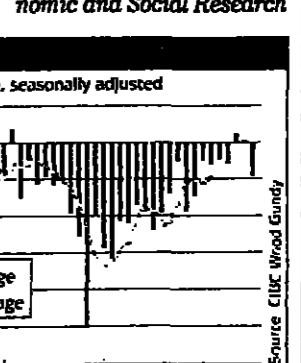
We are told that 20,000 employers have signed New Deal agreements, which means several times that number of places are available. Similarly, colleges have geared up to provide courses for the young people who wish to take up the option of a full-time training course prior to entering work.

The trouble for the New Deal is that across much of the country there are placements available with enthusiastic employers, and there are college courses which have hired tutors, but there are very few young people coming forward. Moreover, from places as different as Leeds and east London, there are reports that those who do come forward have job expectations that the New Deal is unlikely to be able to fulfil. Not all want to be brain surgeons, but few want to work in supermarkets or train as chefs.

More problematic, perhaps, is the fact that the young people eligible for the programme are increasingly concentrated in a few unemployment blackspots where placements are hard to come by. In those areas the young people's expectations may be realistic about the job they are willing to take, but it may still be difficult to fulfil them.

A fortnight ago the Government announced that 20,500 young people had entered the programme, with 11,000 having moved into work and a further 2,000 starting training courses. This leaves nearly 80,000 who have either dropped out or who remain in the gateway stage.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that around a third or more are dropping out within the first few weeks.



Source: ABS/Amico/CSO

Pamela Meadows is a senior research fellow at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Record numbers take flight

By TREVOR WEBSTER

DISMAL WEATHER, the end of the World Cup and the expansion of cut-price airlines spurred Britons to take wing in record numbers last month. The airports operator, BAA, bucked the trend of a slowing economy by enjoying its busiest month ever.

Its seven UK airports handled a record 11.2 million passengers in July, up 9.2 per cent on the same month a year ago.

The last day of the month, after schools broke up and with the weather remaining chilly, also established a new daily record with 402,000 passengers streaming through BAA airports.

Ryanair, Europe's biggest low-cost airline, joined BAA in shining through the gloom of a slowing economy in the three months to June. As passengers flying the Irish airline jumped 22 per cent to 1.2 million and the airline launched six new European routes, net profits rocketed from £64.3m to £17.1m.

The chief executive, Michael O'Leary, says Ryanair's performance reflects the roll-out of its low-fare no-frills formula into Europe. "Unlike British Airways, the World Cup had no adverse effect on Ryanair's bookings," he said, and forecast that the airline will carry 5 million passengers on its 26 routes between Britain, Ireland and Europe in the year to March 1999.

up by 16.2 per cent, while European traffic grew 11.2 per cent. New charter services enabled Southampton to show a 19.4 per cent increase.

Glasgow and Edinburgh also benefited from new "no frills" links and recovery from the BA strike, with growth of 9.3 per cent and 11.6 per cent respectively, while Heathrow enjoyed exceptional growth of 8.3 per cent over the strike-hit month of July 1997. Gatwick and Aberdeen, with 6 per cent and 4 per cent growth respectively, managed to look disappointing.

A BAA spokesman pointed out that "people are travelling more" and forecast further strong growth this month and through the rest of the year, despite the sudden arrival of warmer weather.

12 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code	12 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES																	
804 422 Allard Breweries	105.0	49	4.9	112.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	104.5	30	300	104.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
405 255 Alderford P	93.0	10	5.3	101.1	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	111.0	2	300	111.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
700 755 Amstel	100.5	10	2.7	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	100.5	10	300	100.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
161 465 Amstel	90.0	10	2.1	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	100.5	10	300	100.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
240 167 Amstel Cork	17.0	10	9.3	61.1	1.0	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	44.5	10	100	44.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
BANKS																	
138 178 Abbey Bank	105.0	10	12.3	94.5	2.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	104.5	10	300	104.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
121 477 AIC	94.5	10	4.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	104.5	10	300	104.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
190 700 Amstel Bank	91.0	10	3.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	104.5	10	300	104.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
130 655 ASB of Scotland	111.0	10	2.5	111.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	111.0	10	300	111.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
129 777 ASB Scotland	90.0	10	2.1	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	104.5	10	300	104.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
247 167 Clydesdale	90.0	10	2.1	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	104.5	10	300	104.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
229 1779 Clydesdale	90.0	10	2.1	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	104.5	10	300	104.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
945 575 Coopers	62.5	10	4.1	24.0	2.0	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	52.5	10	300	52.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
946 255 Edinburgh P	62.5	10	4.1	24.0	2.0	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	52.5	10	300	52.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
124 255 First Direct	62.5	10	4.1	24.0	2.0	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	52.5	10	300	52.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
723 449 Northern Rock	62.5	10	4.1	24.0	2.0	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	52.5	10	300	52.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
70 412 NatWest	62.5	10	4.1	24.0	2.0	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	52.5	10	300	52.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
121 591 NatWest	62.5	10	4.1	24.0	2.0	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	52.5	10	300	52.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
431 213 Westpac	62.5	10	4.1	24.0	2.0	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	52.5	10	300	52.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
268 268 Westpac	62.5	10	4.1	24.0	2.0	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	52.5	10	300	52.5	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
CHEMICALS & PLASTIC																	
178 847 Bass	104.0	10	2.4	104.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	104.0	10	300	104.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
72 212 Becton	101.0	4	10.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
125 133 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
120 120 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
121 121 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
122 122 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
123 123 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
124 124 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
125 125 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
126 126 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
127 127 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
128 128 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
129 129 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
130 130 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
131 131 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
132 132 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
133 133 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
134 134 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
135 135 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
136 136 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0	4	300	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100
137 137 Becton Dickinson	105.0	10	2.5	101.0	-0.5	-0.5	10.0	100	300 300	101.0							

Takeover talk lightens the gloom

TAKEOVER BIDS, real or rumoured, provided much of the action as the stock market again wallowed in seemingly unshakable gloom.

At one time Footsie was down 111.9 points. In a volatile session it ended 62.7 lower at 5,399.5, the first time it closed below 5,400 since late January.

There were complaints the controversial order book was exaggerating the decline and inhibiting dealing.

Fairey, the engineer, was catapulted into the takeover arena, soaring 55p from its year's low to 339p. There was talk an approach had been made although Fairey refused to comment. The shares took a tumble on Wednesday when HSBC took the shares off its buy list.

The market got hold of a story that Fairey had all but in name been identified in a US telephone conference call.

A cash-rich American group told its executives it intended to bid for a European group. It then went on to describe its target. Among the clues was the proposed victim's share performance - the price had fallen from around 700p to below

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

300p. Like many engineers, Fairey has been devastated by sterling's strength and its shares have come down from 69p last year.

Southern Electric, the only one of the 12 privatised electricity distributors to retain its independence, was busily traded on renewed talk of corporate action, gaining 11p to 567p. There is, however, some debate whether Southern will emerge as a predator or victim.

It is thought to be keen to flex its muscles but looks vulnerable in the rapidly changing power world.

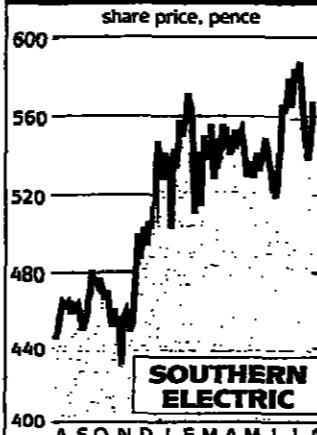
Booker, where talks are taking place, rose a further 21.5p to 279p. Vaux, the brewer and hotelier, was as flat as yesterday's pint, after denying it had received a bid approach, tumbling 4p to 318.5p. And Waverley Mining fell 3.5p to 9.75p as bid talk ended.

Racial Electronics was another lower - 2.5p to 322.5p. Henderson Crosthwaite suggested General Electric would bid before Racial merges its telecoms side, the next year.

Footsie was again subjected to an order book distortion. This time the victim was Sun Life & Provincial, the insurer. A late order book trade for just 450 shares was punched in at 530p. It was the last order driven trade of the day and therefore became the formal closing price. Before the rogue trade Sun Life had traded at around 500p; indeed there were two trades near 500p after the maverick input.

Until Sun Life's intervention BSkyB, the satellite television station, had led the blue chip winners, reflecting the market's appreciation of its digital packages. The shares rose 18p to 446p. Drug giants

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



SOUTHERN ELECTRIC

A S O N D J F M A M J J A

move would hit the German banks, which have a heavy Russian exposure, and probably lower the market, creating more problems for Britain's hard-pressed exporters.

But investment house BT Alex Brown is not throwing up its hands in despair. It says: "Investors should now start to buy into the current market fragility and we no longer expect it to underperform the rest of the Europe".

Supporting shares were not spared with the mid cap index of 2,514 and the small cap, down 2,562 to 2,333.1, uncomfortably close to its year's low.

Centrica, the gas group, firm of 2,250 to 90.75p as Pannone Gordon increased its target price from 120p to 140p. ENI, the showbiz group, slipped 2.5p to 463.5p and SB 3.5p to 665.5p.

Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham resisted the retreat, prompting vague thoughts that, just perhaps, their merger was not dead. Glaxo rose 36p to 1,811p and SB 3.5p to 665.5p.

The session was dominated by worries over foreign markets, with the turmoil in Moscow creating considerable anxiety. A Russian devaluation seems inevitable. Such a

parcels and mail delivery group, lumbered 52.5p to 575p on the boardroom changes which include the return of founder Peter Kane as chief executive.

Torvalts, the transmissions group hived off from BTG, continued to experience an unhappy market life. The shares arrived recently at around 300p; they fell 25p to 275.5p despite a little director buying Antonov, with a revolutionary gearbox, continued its sudden revival, gaining a further 18.5p to 113.5p. Its ninth licensing deal and comments from Credit Lyonnais suggesting a 300p target are behind this week's 35p advance.

Huntington Life Sciences returned at 13.5p against a 19.5p suspension. Trading was halted while the company put together a £2.2m placing and open offer. The group suffered a 5.8m interim loss.

Oriflame International, the cosmetic group, fell 25p to 320p on worries about its exposure to Russia which accounts for around 15 per cent of its turnover.

SEAO TRADES: 845.8

SEAO TRADES: 60.140

GILTS INDEX: n/a

UNION, once the Union Discount Co. of London, firm of 1.5p to 62.5p as aggressive investor Guinness Peat lifted its stake to 9.77 per cent, buying 1.5 million shares. GP has recently caused disquiet to directors of Staveley Industries and family controlled Young & Co's Brewery. Union ended a 112 year reign as a proud discount house last year; it is now a fund manager and futures and foreign exchange broker.

The company lost £2.6m last year and £1.9m the year before. Joseph Lewis, the Bahamas-based investor, has a 24 per cent stake; he is said to be a major client of the foreign exchange side. For Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand chairman of GP, it is a return to old pastures.

When he headed Brierley Investments he put together a 25 per cent Union stake, much of which is now with Mr Lewis.

TAKEOVER development are likely soon at engineer James Dickie. The shares rose 6.5p to 135p on expectations of a deal.

Independent's fortunes leave rivals red-faced

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

INDEPENDENT INSURANCE: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £653.3m, share price 278.5p (-13p)

Full year to Dec 31 Half year to Jun 30

Trading record 1995 1996 1997 1998

Group Premium (£m) 110.50 148.30 162.20 229.90 250.50

Pre-tax profits (£m) 35.60 52.00 65.10 38.50 25.90

Earnings per share (p) 53.60 80.20 99.90 77.90 11.90

Dividends per share (p) 2.25 2.65 3.30 1.25 1.50

Share price (pence) 178.67 278.50 357.81 357.21 357.21

Return on equity (%) 19.56 20.20 21.50 19.70 19.70

Source: Independent Insurance

other interactive projects, and Flextech's future looks compelling viewing. Dori let the chunky forward multiple of 16 times 2001 earnings put you off. The shares are good value.

Grim times for Danka

DANKA BUSINESS Systems has to be one of the more gruesome corporate horror stories of the recent years. In the past year, the photocopier distributor has watched its shares lose most of their value following a series of drastic profit warnings.

Yesterday, investors suffered even more blood and gore as first-quarter profits fell more than 60 per cent to £21m. Even though Danka had primed the market to expect the worst, its shares shed another 16.5p to close at 132.5p.

The situation looks grim. Margins are being eroded by cut-price competition from Japan and Danka's sales force are confused following the introduction of a new bonus scheme. Meanwhile, shrinking interest cover - its interest bill was covered less than two times by operating profits in the first half - has forced Danka to renegotiate covenants on its £240m odd of debt.

Clearly, Danka will have to work hard to restore its credibility. The appointment of two new executives should beef up its sales operation, allowing Danka to - albeit belatedly - keep the promises it made at the time of the acquisition of Kodak's copier distribution businesses.

Should Danka complete the turnaround, the upside will be huge. As the first-quarter figures show, profits are heavily geared to revenues. If sales start growing again, earnings will rebound sharply.

At the moment, the market is sceptical, valuing Danka's £2bn-plus of sales at little more than £800m. It's not for the faint-hearted, but if Danka pulls it off, the shares could be the recovery story of 1999.

IN BRIEF

Xenova revenues up despite loss

XENOVA, a biotechnology company which develops drugs from plants, yesterday reported a £6.47m loss in the six month to the end of June, compared with a £5.82m loss in the same period last year. The group said revenues had increased to £2.9m from £2.81m, mainly as a result of a collaboration with Eli Lilly, the drug company, on a cardiovascular treatment.

Ideal trades on

IDEAL HARDWARE, the computer hardware and software distributor, rushed out a statement saying it continued to trade strongly in the final quarter of the year just ended, and margins were within the company's target band. It follows a trading statement from rival Datrontech on Wednesday, warning that "during the last three months in common with a number of other distributors of PC-related products it [Datrontech] had experienced a sharp decline in business compared with the first four months of the year". Ideal's shares rose 17.5p to 265p.

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Hippy-trippy era buys into plastic

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



WHEN John Lennon sang "Sexy Sadie" on the Beatles' *White Album* in 1968, he cannot have imagined that 30 years later the man he lampooned in the song, the Maharishi Yogi, would be issuing his own credit card to the British public.

OK, the new Visa card is not being issued by the Maharishi himself but by the school he founded 12 years ago just outside Skelmersdale in Lancashire.

The Maharishi School is launching a fund raising credit card via an American corporation, Beneficial Bank, to help finance its expansion.

And, far from being some hotbed of hippy-trippy antics, the 100-pupil Maharishi School has excellent academic standards. It ascribes this to its teaching of Transcendental Meditation (TM), practised daily by both staff and pupils.

The head teacher, Derek Cassells, claims that scientific research has demonstrated that TM enhances creativity, energy and intelligence.

Back in the material world, the new card charges no annual fee and an introductory annual rate of interest of 9.9 per cent for balances transferred from other credit cards for six months. The regular interest rate is 19.9 per cent APR.

It'll be interesting to see how the school markets this product. It could become the cool card to be seen with down the Camden market. Now where are those joss sticks...

IAN SPENCE, a pioneering IT analyst at expanding investment bank Granville, has upped stumps and gone off to rivals Pannone Gordon.

Mr Spence was it was last February launched *Gigabugle*, an annual 175-page round-up of the IT sector, and then *Megabugle*, a monthly equivalent.

Speaking from Granville's offices yesterday, Mr Spence said it was an "amazing split". "I've had a good four years at Granville, and I'm leaving a good IT team here."

That IT team has recently

been augmented by Roger Phillips, who arrived from *Investors Chronicle* from

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That IT team has recently

main link with Tito, the partisan leader and subsequent Communist boss. Lady Smith was a close friend of Sir Fitzroy for many years, sharing his close interest in Russia and Eastern Europe.

Following Sir Fitzroy's death last year Sir Peter Holmes, formerly senior managing director of Royal Dutch Shell Group, took over as president of the foundation, which is based in London's West End and only has half-a-dozen salaried staff, relying on 50 to 60 external experts to provide advice to companies.

The main idea, Mr James says, is to supply the kind of information about overseas cultures, and what conditions British companies may meet, which government or industry may not provide.

Mr James adds that they have had a problem deciding just how "Hacky", an old Herveford name, should be pronounced. "We settled on 'Hack-let', although apparently you can also say 'Hack-lee-oot' or 'Hack-lee-et'."

THE ECOLOGY Building Society, specialists in environmental and ecological money issues, has appointed a senior commercial lawyer as an executive director. Malcolm Lynch runs his own firm of the same name and is one of the leading charity lawyers in the North East.

The society was formed in 1981 and is based in Crosshills, West Yorkshire. It aims to provide finance to buy properties with an ecological payback, especially dilapidated houses that would otherwise be ignored.

Mr Lynch is also company secretary of the UK Social Investment Forum, the Foundation for Credit Counselling and the Co-operative Law Association.

RANK GROUP has appointed Oliver Stocken, currently group finance director of Barclays, to the board as a non-executive director from 1 October. Mr Stocken, 56, is also a non-executive director of MEPC.

INDUSTRIAL METALS

LME (\$/tonne) Cash Chg 3 month Cng LME/3m Chg

Aluminium HG 1305 1307 5.50 1336 1327 3 41200 -.75 Copper A 1150 1150 5.50 1170 1175 0 70120 0

Lead 538 538 5.00 547 547.5 4 113823 -.25 Nickel 4105 4115 70.00 4170 4180 70 6053

SPORT

Premiership kick-off: A title race which may be the last as we know it has potential to be the most exciting for years

Greed threatens game's golden age

BY GLENN MOORE

IT WAS once widely believed that increasing televised football from the weekly diet of *Match of the Day*, *The Big Match* and occasional midweek highlights would lead to a wholesale desecration of the terraces and the end of the game as we knew it.

This season Sky will show 180 matches, the Beeb and ITV will chip in with a few dozen of their own while Channel 5 is so desperate to join in they have been showing live pre-season friendlies. Meanwhile, an empty seat at a Premiership match has become as rare, expensive and coveted a commodity as a promising young Englishman emerging from the lower divisions.

All of which underlines the inherent risk in predicting future developments in an industry which remains an often uncomfortable mix of sport and business. But one prediction has to come to pass: the game as we knew it has been changing so fast that this is likely to be one of the last seasons in which the Premiership has a pre-eminent status in the English game. Such are the perceived financial rewards that a European super league, either authorised or outlawed, is inevitable.

As this will have enormous ramifications for the domestic game, the issue is likely to provide a rumbling

backdrop to events on the pitch during the next 10 months.

All of which is a pity, as this season promises to be a memorable one. The World Cup attracted more people to the game than ever before and the sport has responded by bringing in yet more of the tournament's stars. More than a dozen players, from 11 countries – including six of the quarter-finalist nations – have been lured by the Premiership's growing reputation for big crowds and bigger salaries.

The title is likely to be contested by four teams which, if all survive to the final reckoning, would make it one of the most open for years. Manchester United are perhaps the most likely champions if they are not

sidetracked by Europe but Arsenal, Liverpool and Chelsea should run them close. The remaining pre-super league European places will be justified for by the usual suspects, such as Leeds, Aston Villa and a polyglot Newcastle, but also a cluster of fears, like Southampton, West Ham and Coventry, who are demonstrating that with good coaching and judicious spending the game's new wealth can favour the Jacks as well as the giants. One of these teams could well take the FA Cup.

At the other end it is important that the promoted trio do not again go straight back down, though it is hard to be optimistic about either Charlton or Nottingham Forest. The former will carry the good wishes of many but will need to adjust much quicker than Barnsley did if they are to survive. The latter's problems with Pierre van Hoofdonk have, along with the farcical David Unsworth situation and the De Boer brothers' attempt to walk out on Ajax, provided a worrying prelude.

But, when they look at the example of their elders and supposed betters, why should players not put money before loyalty? It starts at the top with Keith Wiseman, the Football Association chairman, becoming a paper millionaire on the back of Southampton's business dealings. Then there is Arsenal's deputy chairman, David Dein, a respected and influential figure in the game, who was this week revealed to have earned close to £1m last year from pay and sales of his club shares. Most reprehensibly of all, even the England coach has been at it, revealing in his small-minded, self-judging, occasionally bizarre and highly lucrative book, *tales which should have been told at the time or left unsaid for good*.

If he retains his sanity and survives the present storm, Glenn Hoddle is likely to have a good year. England's opposition in the Euro 2000 qualifiers ought not to present much of a hurdle to a talented and determined squad, whoever manages them.

That none of those players are gaining experience abroad – unlike

Adi Akhribi (23), Bristol City. A late developer who was plucked from Norwich reserves by Gillingham and, 28 goals in 63 League games later, turned into a £1m profit. Quick, powerful and a good finisher, still needs to improve on his first touch – but then, they said that about Andy Cole when he first moved to Bristol City. Confirmed his potential with two of City's goals in their 4-0 midweek Worthington Cup win over Shrewsbury.

ham. While Hoddle's scapegoating of him was callous and – one hopes – thoughtless, the ferocity of reaction is as much the unhappy consequence of Manchester United's overweening commercial presence as of envy. It also underlines, as Marcellus did, that the game is not clear of casual louts and organised malcontents yet.

A return to the days of the Stanley knife would hasten the backlash that is bound to come at some point; football is just too popular to remain the darling of the chattering classes and tories for ever. When it happens, will the game's bedrock be alienated; driven away by high ticket prices and pay-per-view? It's not just the top clubs who exploit their public: Gillingham, in the Second Division, have just unveiled their fourth home kit in as many seasons. This lack of respect for the supporter – as exemplified by the Gallowgate tapes affair – needs to be driven out, but there is a shortage of able administrators, with too few even of the calibre of Gordon Taylor and the much-maligned but essentially decent Graham Kelly.

Yet while we should be vigilant in protecting the future we must not forget to enjoy the present. This is a golden age, get some memories in the bank while you still can.

FIVE YOUNG TALENTS READY TO MAKE AN IMPACT

Steve McPhail (18), Leeds United
George Graham inherited a glittering legacy of youth talent from Howard Wilkinson and McPhail is, with Harry Kewell, the jewel in the crown. Spoken of as the best young Irish midfielder since Liam Brady, he has already shown in four substitute appearances that he may live up to that billing. A raking long pass, which set up a goal for Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink against Derby last spring, has already illustrated his quality.

Jimmy Corbett (18), Blackburn
Less than a year ago he was still on YTS forms with Gillingham in the Second Division. His direct and pacy wing play allied with an eye for goal has since persuaded Blackburn to pay £525,000 after just 16 appearances, of which only four lasted 90 minutes. The fee, depending on his progress, could rise to £1m – Gillingham are no doubt already pondering how they might spend the money.

Joe Cole (17), West Ham United
An attacking midfielder who is regarded with awe by youth coaches all over the capital, Cole is still to make a first-team appearance, but has already been the subject of a tabloid back-page splash. He is expected to make his debut in the Premiership at some stage before the end of the season. Trevor Brooking has publicly described him as the best young player he has seen.

Philip Matyane (20), Man Utd
To date has played in six senior games – five for his country, and one for his club, which is a testament to the differing strengths of Manchester United and Northern Ireland. But, despite the competition for places, this could be the season he makes his breakthrough at Old Trafford. Cannot have harmed his chances by scoring a pre-season hat-trick against Birmingham City.

Adi Akhribi (23), Bristol City
A late developer who was plucked from Norwich reserves by Gillingham and, 28 goals in 63 League games later, turned into a £1m profit. Quick, powerful and a good finisher, still needs to improve on his first touch – but then, they said that about Andy Cole when he first moved to Bristol City. Confirmed his potential with two of City's goals in their 4-0 midweek Worthington Cup win over Shrewsbury.

Premiership sets challenge for Desailly

WHEN CHELSEA signed Marcel Desailly from Milan two days before the World Cup finals eyebrows were raised and knowing looks exchanged – £24.5m for a player approaching 30, his best years probably behind him? Did Gianluca Vialli know what he was doing with Chelsea's money? After five years in Italy's Serie A, the only thing many players are good for is early retirement but as the World Cup unfolded Vialli's smile must have broadened by the day.

Desailly's dominant performances in the heart of defence were as influential as any player's contribution to France's triumph, and despite being sent off following a reckless challenge towards the end of the final his was probably the first name on most people's fantasy team of the tournament. Questions will inevitably be asked about his commitment to Chelsea, but at least there was proof that Desailly still has peers and if he plays half as well for his new club as he did for his country there will be no complaints.

"I had three years of my contract to run with Milan so I'm not coming here to sleep," he said yesterday after being introduced to the English press. "Chelsea asked me to come and help them win many things, and I said OK. I am a player and I need a challenge, and the challenge Chelsea have given me is a good one."

From Accra to London, via Nantes, Marseilles and Milan is the route Desailly has taken since being adopted at birth by the French consul in Ghana. The family moved to Nantes when Desailly was four and it was there that he made his name, but not before personal tragedy intervened. His half-brother, Seth Adonkor, six years older and a member of the Nantes team that won the French championship in 1983, was killed in a car accident on

the road to La Baule and it is said to have had a profound effect on his 15-year-old brother.

At Nantes, Desailly found a kindred spirit in Didier Deschamps, who had suffered an identical bereavement some years earlier. Desailly followed Deschamps to Marseille, before both men moved on to Italy. While at Marseilles Desailly played in the side, captained by Deschamps, beat Milan in the 1993 European Cup final (a victory subsequently tainted by match-fixing allegations) and Milan were so impressed they bought him.

There he was converted into a defensive midfield player by Fabio Capello and within a year he was a European Cup winner again, scoring the final goal as the Italians routed Barcelona 4-0 in Athens. Over the next three years, while Milan slowly slipped from their pedestal, Desailly was one of their most consistent performers but since reaching the semi-finals of Euro 96 with France his own form finally seemed to suffer as Milan began to struggle.

"We had two bad seasons and for me everything was becoming routine," he said. "People were saying my performances for Milan were down, but I can assure everybody I'm still there and I'll show it again in the Premiership. The idea is for me to play in defence. I played for a long time in midfield for Milan, but I play in defence for the national team and I am a defender. Sometimes I'll play in midfield if the coach says so, but otherwise I'll play in defence."

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Marcel Desailly, in training yesterday: 'I had three years of my contract to run with Milan so I'm not coming here to sleep' Robert Hallam

Consolidation the key for Forest Green's Conference debut

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

BY RUPERT METCALF

THIS TIME last year Forest Green Rovers were preparing for their first season in the Dr Martens League Premier Division, after winning the Southern Division title the previous campaign. Few at the little

Gloucestershire club dared to dream that they might win promotion once again. But they did just that, and tomorrow they make their debut in the Football Conference with a home fixture against Rushden & Diamonds.

"Last year our only aim was consolidation. We just wanted to find our feet in the [Dr Martens] Premier."

Rovers' manager, Frank Green, said yesterday. "But we had an amazing start, and we realised that perhaps we were better than we thought we were."

In fact, Rovers were good enough to go on to win the title with a five-point advantage over their only serious rivals, Merthyr Tydfil, and thus maintain a rise that has taken them

from the Stroud and District League to the top level of the semi-professional game. Now the country's best non-League clubs, like wealthy Rushden, must find their way to The Lawn.

Rovers' compact ground, perched on a hillside outside the small town of Nailsworth.

Rovers' only previous taste of national fame came in 1982,

when they beat Rainworth Miners' Welfare at Wembley to win the FA Vase. The Conference, as their manager admits, is a big jump. "Our sole aim is staying up," Green said.

At odds of 50-1 (Rushden are the 5-2 favourites) for the title, Rovers are the joint favourites for relegation. "The bookmakers don't often get it wrong," Green added. "Unlike the

other two promoted teams [Barrow and Kingstonian], we haven't spent much money on our squad."

Green, a former Army man who arrived at Rovers for his first managerial job in 1994, has brought in two former Cardiff City players, Nathan Wigg and Jimmy Hollis. Another summer signing, the former Bournemouth defender Ian

Hedges, has damaged ankle ligaments and will be out for two months. Most of last season's squad remain, including Chris Honer, once of Bristol City and Airdrie.

Green knows his team face a tough start in the Conference. "Our first seven fixtures are horrendous," he said. (After Rushden, their next two home games are against Cheltenham

and Stevenage and they also face early trips to Woking and Doncaster.) "We're wondering where we're going to pick up any points. But you have to get on with it."

After the collapse of talks with a potential replacement for its previous sponsors, Vauxhall, the "fifth division" will now be known as the Football Conference.

Hungarian Grand Prix: Hakkinen and Schumacher prepare for sweltering showdown

Ferrari fired up for heat of battle

BY DERICK ALLSOP
in Budapest

THE CIRCUIT should be more to his car's liking, the conditions should favour his fabled fitness, so anything short of victory is unthinkable. For Michael Schumacher, this is the last chance saloon.

He is characteristically defiant in the face of a 16-point deficit, but concedes he cannot afford to lose more ground to Mika Hakkinen in Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix here.

Schumacher's Ferrari was hopelessly outclassed at Hockenheim, last time out, and McLaren-Mercedes can safely anticipate being at the head of the field again this weekend. Even Schumacher's own fans appear to have given up on him. Seventy per cent of Germans polled recently considered his championship a lost cause.

Schumacher, however, maintained yesterday: "At the beginning of the season people said we could not win races but I have won four so we'll see. It becomes more difficult when you drop points, and I really have to make up some ground here. This is a good circuit to do that. I'll never give up on the championship until it is mathematically impossible to win."

Schumacher again protested his innocence yesterday amid rumours that Ferrari were using an illegal traction control system to boost the car's performance so that it could compete with the superior McLaren-Mercedes.

The rumours had been fu-

elled when it took longer than usual to download the computer software from the Ferrari so that it could be checked after the last race in Germany a fortnight ago.

"I find this all rather silly," said Schumacher, who faced similar speculation during his first world title season with Benetton in 1994. "I do not believe for one moment that any car is using an illegal strategy. People did not believe us in 1994 even though we did nothing illegal and that did upset me."

Typically, McLaren have left nothing to chance in their preparations for the head of the Hungaroring, testing at a similarly stifling Jerez, in southern Spain.

"It is like a sauna here," Hakkinen said. "The sweat runs into your eyes and makes the driving very difficult. You have to make sure you take on a lot of fluid before the race."

Equally typically, Schumacher seized the opportunity to pick off a couple of psychological points. "Compared with saloon cars, Formula One cars are air-conditioned," he said.

Schumacher, of course, has raised the physical stakes in grand prix racing, and the rest have had to play catch-up. But Hakkinen's team-mate, David Coulthard, is convinced the Finn will not be found wanting if the temperature reaches its expected near 100 degrees here on Sunday and Schumacher is breathing down his neck.

Coulthard said: "I'm sure Mika is fit enough. There are no worries about that. Over the past couple of years the team have



Michael Schumacher yesterday rejected claims of an illegal traction system at the Prancing Horse team

had the facility to test our fitness and we've worked on improving it. Mika won't have a problem if it comes down to a close fight between the two of them."

"It is incredibly hot and this will be one of the hardest races on the season. I've been train-

ing more in the heat than usual, especially for this race. We've also been testing in Jerez in similarly hot conditions. Every single part of the car is stressed more and we have wider front tyres here."

"It's also harder on the me-

chanics. They work long hours and a couple of them had problems here last year."

"Michael was on pole here last year but I'll be surprised if we're not at the front. I believe we have the best overall package anywhere. It would take a

brave man to bet against Mika now. It is a critical race for Michael."

Damon Hill's negotiations for a new contract at Jordan are apparently unlikely to be concluded this weekend. The sticking point remains money.

AFP

PA

Woods fires early birdies

GOLF

By ANDY FARRELL
in Seattle

AFTER THE Great Wall of China, the Boeing factory here is the next most easily spotted man-made object visible on the Earth from space. Bill Gates' mansion may not come far behind. The Microsoft empire is situated all around the Sahalee course in Redmond and nothing illustrates the advances of time better than Seattle's switch in exports from hardware that does not crash to software that, it is hoped, also doesn't crash.

So far in 1998, however, golf's charge into youth culture has stalled. A year ago, going into the US PGA Championship, the three previous major winners for the season had been in their 20s. This year, Mark O'Meara has arrived as a twice winner at the age of 41 and Lee Janzen, the US Open champion, is 33.

The question, therefore, has been what has happened to the young guns? But not among the players, according to the 1997 Open champion Justin Leonard. "It's not something that I really think about," Leonard said. "I measure people by height, not age."

While Ernie Els, the third of the trio of titans from last season, did not tee off until later in the day, Leonard and Tiger Woods were quickly onto the leaderboard on the first morning of the 80th USGA Woods recovered from a bogey at the first to get to one under par at the turn and then birdied the 10th and the 11th while Leonard birdied three of the first four holes.

Woods had his best major since winning the Masters when he finished third at Birkdale behind O'Meara and Brian Witschi. No one had more birdies during the four rounds in the Open than Woods and he quickly made up for his opening dropped shot by birdieing the par-five second. While others laid up, Woods hit a big, booming fade around the pond and comforted got up and down.

Since winning the Players' Championship in March, Leonard has had a quiet time. The 26-year-old Texan only just survived the cut at both the US and British Opens, while he has failed to qualify in each of his last two tournaments in the States. "It has been disappointing but I can find some positives over the first two days I'll get some confidence back," he said.

If that happened quicker than he was expecting, the poker-faced Leonard was giving no sign. With his ability to work the ball, the decision to bring the event to Sahalee for the first time was possibly the spark Leonard needed.

"I enjoy the golf course," he said. "You have to shape the ball off the tees and it seems you are always hitting around something, trees or a pond, into the rough. You have to really work the ball and, when I am playing well, that is something I'm very comfortable with."

The course is also to the liking of Ian Woosnam, naturally enough for a man who has been a frequent winner at Wentworth and Woburn. The weather hot but not humid, has also met his approval. Woosnam went to the turn in one over par, his tee shot at the short fifth a solid finding the cup in one. An-

drew

Coltart

was also out in 36,

but Nick Faldo took one more.

A poor drive at the sixth cost one bogey and three putts two holes later brought another.

Although Lee Westwood

thought his Ryder Cup partner

was playing better practice

earlier in the week than

they last played together,

Faldo's major record in the

last two years makes ugly reading.

He has missed the cut in

four of the last seven and

finished down the field in the

other three. The last time he figured in a major was at Royal Lytham in 1996.

The winner then was Tom Lehman. Still slightly bothered by the shoulder injury he suffered in a fairground accident in Southport last month, Lehman matched Faldo's from nine while Ben Crenshaw the third member of the group, took 36. The former double Masters champion has had a wretched season, missing 11 cuts in 13 tournaments.

"It is just terrible," Crenshaw said. "I've never had a year where I have played with so little confidence. I have experimented a lot with my game but I have not seen anything to build on. I can't think of any facet of my game which gives me any confidence."

Part of Crenshaw's distractions

are provided by being the

American Ryder Cup captain

for the next match at Brookline in Boston in 13 months time.

The European captain will not

be named until the end of the

month, just prior to when the

qualifying period begins, but the

favourite for the post is Mark James. "It does turn out to be

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SPORT

HEAT IS ON FOR SCHUMACHER P26 • DESAILLY'S CHALLENGE P22

Pay-per-view this season

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN MOORE

PAY-PER-VIEW football television coverage will be introduced this season but not for championship-deciding games. Vic Wakeling, the newly-appointed head of Sky's sports division, yesterday revealed that he expected PPV "to happen this season but not this year." But he pledged that for the duration of the present contract "a Manchester United-Arsenal" title decider, would never be on pay-per-view. We couldn't do that to our subscribers. A pay-per-view game will be on top of our normal coverage."

Wakeling denied Sky were worried about being sued by subscribers but said it was not worth the "piss-off" factor to make them pay for premium matches. However, PPV could involve a relegation battle, a match

featuring a mid-table team with strong support such as Middlesbrough or Newcastle, a cup replay, or an away European tie. At present it would be a match which would be sold out.

"We are talking to more than one administrative body and it will come in one shape or another," added Wakeling, presumably referring to the FA, the FA Premier League, the Nationwide League and Uefa.

Sky still have to see off a court challenge from the Office of Fair Trading over the legality of the current exclusive deal but they are confident that by the time the legal processes are finished the five-year contract - which begins its third season on Sunday - will be near completion. However, Wakeling added: "If we lose the case - and we are in with the BBC in this - the prospects are terrifying for football. The top half dozen clubs will be picked

up and the rest will have to take the crumbs."

Wakeling, who has been on a summer fact-finding mission in the United States, also said that improvements would soon be made to Sky's coverage including new camera angles, enabling viewers, if they so desire, to watch the entire match from behind the goal. Widescreen TV is on the cards as is more immediate use of the channel's virtual reality technique, which may ultimately be quick enough to use to examine low appeals in cricket.

Pay-per-view has not, however, been a success where it has been introduced elsewhere in Europe such as France or Italy but industry insiders believe that the difference in England is that the game is buoyant and the principle of paying for television on subscription is already established. Sky's best take-up so far for boxing has been 650,000

homes for Frank Bruno versus Mike Tyson but it is accepted that that was a special case. However, the company's market penetration has since increased and there are also a substantial number of potential viewers who watch in pubs and clubs.

Sky's success in promoting their product through the coverage of live television sport has since been copied by cable television companies and Channel 5 and it is anticipated that live sport, especially football, will remain a major factor in reaching new customers for the ever-expanding range of television channels. Financially, this can only benefit the game though there is still much uncertainty over whether the distribution of spoils will be to football's long-term benefit.

Premiership preview, pages 22 and 23
Kelly defends Hoddle, page 27

FA drops Clough 'bung' case



THE FOOTBALL Association announced yesterday that Brian Clough, the former Nottingham Forest manager, will not have to face a disciplinary hearing in the wake of the recent "bung" inquiry because of his poor health.

Clough, 63, had been accused of misconduct for allegedly accepting unauthorised payments in transfer deals following the publication of the findings of the lengthy investigation.

But the FA said in a statement that "it would not be in the best interests of the game to pursue the misconduct charge against Mr Clough because of his poor health."

The statement continued: "Mr Clough has provided medical evidence which indicates that he is unfit to attend a personal hearing. The FA considered

ers that in all the circumstances, Mr Clough would not be able to present his defence to the best of his ability and it would be in no one's interest to continue the prosecution."

However, similar outstanding misconduct charges against Ronnie Fenlon, the former Forest assistant manager, and Steve Burershaw, the former chief scout at Arsenal, are still due to be heard on 16 September.

Charges against Nottingham Forest Football Club arising out of the inquiry will also be heard by a FA disciplinary commission on a date to be confirmed.

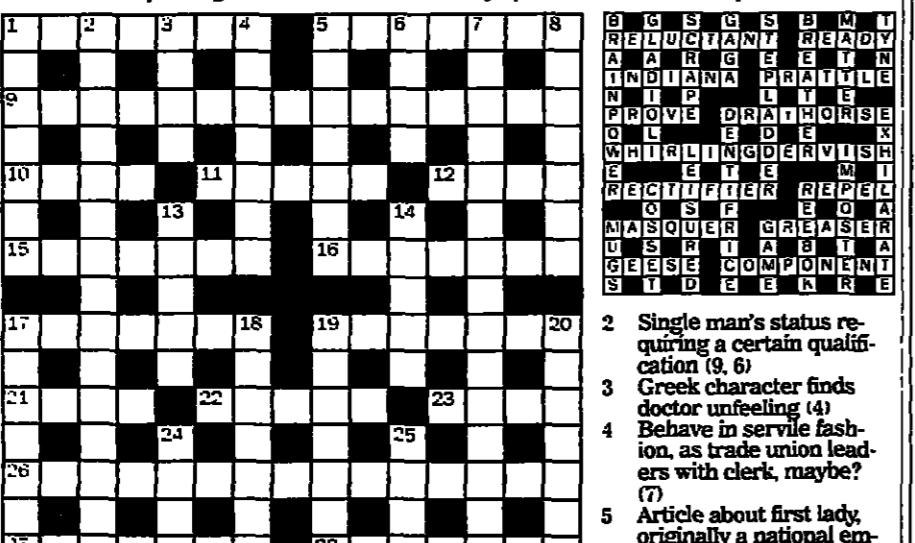
Clough's case is awaiting a hearing when Leicester open

THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3689. Friday 14 August

By Spurius

Thursday's solution



ACROSS
 1 Government advisory body in Egypt (7)
 5 Harmful substance obtainable in Caribbean island, small quantity for \$1000 (7)
 9 Reticent when giving amount civic menu wasted (15)
 10 Plane grounded? (4)
 11 Fish is served by Bianca's sister (5)
 12 Seabird moving backwards when crossing land (4)
 15 It's cold and dark outside (4-3)
 16 Voter's customary function given backing, reinforced by European court (7)

DOWN
 1 Sardonic Commander-in-Chief touring Australia (7)
 17 Platform, unusual sort with strange surround (7)
 19 Rubbish burning initially confined to outbuilding (7)
 21 Subscriptions payable directly to society (4)
 22 Limp encrustation found in pan (5)
 23 Work makes you sick after a short time (4)
 26 System which relies on the fans behaving properly? (3-12)
 27 Proposition suggested by article more controversial? (7)
 28 Suspect one carrying bomb to be an agent (7)
 29 DOWN
 1 Sardonic Commander-in-Chief touring Australia (7)

Rowell and Dwyer team up at Bristol

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWITT

BRISTOL'S LONG-SUFFERING rugby aficionados prefer not to think about their club's first double whammy of the summer; after all, the combination of relegation and bankruptcy is as bad as it gets. Happily, the West Countrymen were able to celebrate a more agreeable one-two yesterday as they named a brace of former international coaches, Jack Rowell and Bob Dwyer, in an extraordinarily high-powered team charged with restoring top flight action to the Memorial Ground.

It was without doubt the managerial coup of the year and quite possibly of the decade; in footballing terms, it was as if Terry Venables and Arsène Wenger had agreed to pool their considerable talents in an effort to rescue, say, Manchester City from the depths of despair.

"We've got the money and we've got the expertise, so there are no excuses for failure," said Phil Adams, the recently-retired lock-forward who acted as the players' representative during the dark days of

of director of rugby, Nick de Scossa has replaced Jeff Lewis as chief executive.

As ever with Bristol, there was a nasty little smudge on the clean slate. Two of the club's few remaining prize assets, the veteran scrum-half Robert Jones and the exciting young No 8 Jim Brownrigg, were being pursued by Cardiff and Bath respectively. Both were expected to jump ship.

Paul Burke, the Irish international stand-off elected as captain for next season, was hopeful that a majority of the existing squad would remain on board. "We haven't been paid for seven weeks and the pressure has been growing on the guys with mortgages and families to think about, but I'm willing to stick around to find out what is on the table and I think most of my colleagues will do likewise," he said.

What goes on the table is likely to be a whole lot less than the existing squad have been used to: De Scossa, a local second row forward made good in the even more ruthless world of big business, insisted Pearce's money would not be frittered away with abandon. "The club had 30 people driving around in company cars last season and the players' mobile phone bill was close to £60,000," he said. "That sort of thing is clearly unsustainable. Rugby as a whole is heading for a brick wall financially and we want to put ourselves ahead of the game by running a viable operation."

Roughly translated, De Scossa's comments indicated a move towards semi-profes-

sional status for all but the most senior members of the squad. Pearce, a close associate of Rowell's during the latter's glory years at Bath, has never been wholly convinced by the merits of full-time rugby and intends to use his extensive network of business contacts to place his players with sympathetic employers.

Rowell had originally been earmarked for the rugby directorship but, at the last minute, he decided he could not afford the time away from his burgeoning business portfolio. However, his appearance on the new board, where he joins the Bristol Rovers chairman, Geoff Dunford, will still be of immense interest to those tribally motivated supporters who prefer to remember him as the Great Salan rather than a great coach.

According to Pearce, though, both Bath and Gloucester have bent over backwards to help their local rivals through the trauma of the last few weeks. "They've offered to loan us players," he said. "To my way of thinking, that sort of supportive attitude makes rugby what it is. I've been watching Bath since I was five but my passion is for the game rather than a single club."

Pearce declined to discuss the extent of his stake, either in terms of cash or time. "I'm committed to Bristol for at least as long as it takes them to beat Bath here at the Memorial Ground," he smiled. Judging by recent results, rugby's latest investor has just talked himself into a job for life.

More rugby union, page 27

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on
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Nick Faldo follows his drive off the third tee during the first round of the PGA Championship at Sahalee Country Club in Redmond, Washington, yesterday

Harry How/Allsport

Engineered crops
Sir: Genetically unengineered plants cause cancer, and some contain genes for making deadly poisons, scientists admitted yesterday. A spokesman agreed that deadly "tobacco" plants, responsible for countless deaths from lung cancer, are genetically unengineered. I can reveal that the toxins in deadly nightshade, death cap fungi and puff adder venom are produced by unengineered genes. Science proves! Run for your lives!

All plants, and all animals including humans, are genetically modified. That is what evolution means. They are genetically modified by natural selection of random mutations and recombinations. Some, such as maize, wheat, cabbages and roses are additionally modified by domestic breeding. And some are modified by engineered mutation or recombination.

Any of these three kinds of genetic modification can have desirable or undesirable consequences, for they all end up doing exactly the same thing: changing genomes. Some newspapers bear a heavy responsibility for whipping up ignorant hysteria over scientific matters.

RICHARD DAWKINS
Simonyi Professor of the Public Understanding of Science
University Museum
Oxford

Sir: We read that Professor Puszta has admitted that the claimed results of his research into genetically modified food were misleading ("Researcher in genetic food scare is suspended from job", 13 August). To quote from the same article: "Dan Verakis, spokesman for Monsanto, said the retraction proved consumers had nothing to worry about."

It proves nothing of the sort. There is an essential difference between *absence of proof of risk* and *proof of absence of risk*. So far, we have the former. What we need in this overwhelmingly important issue is the nearest we can get to the latter.

PATRICIA ATYEO
Church Hanborough
Oxfordshire

Sir: Does Dan Verakis, Monsanto's public affairs manager ("Right of Reply", 11 August) really think that the public will be reassured by research taking "up to three years". The experience of this century - asbestos, smoking, pneumoconiosis, thalidomide - is that any amount of testing cannot predict side-effects, which often take years or decades to manifest themselves. Will Mr Verakis be around in 2050 to wring his hands and protest that no one could have predicted the long-term effects of genetic interference with our food?

ANDREW C BLUNDY
London SE7

No knife-edge

Sir: Your front-page report ("Economy on knife-edge" (later editions, 13 August)) is inaccurate and completely contradicts your own earlier editions.

The last few days have been filled with ill-informed comment on the economy, which has swung from one extreme to the other. Yet the facts are that unemployment has continued to fall and we have seen a welcome reduction in earnings growth.

Balanced and rational discussion is helpful in increasing understanding of the global nature of economic pressures and the role we all have to play in ensuring a responsible approach to achieving future prosperity.

I did not say "the economy is on a knife edge", nor do I believe it to be so. On *Channel 4 News* on Wednesday I was discussing the manufacturing sector in Sheffield and the part which everyone can play in keeping inflationary pressures down to avoid the need for further interest rate rises.

Ministers understand the



Charlton Athletic FC: the club shop. 'Please Daddy, can I have...' (after spending £32.40 on Charlton teddies, videos and hats)

Brian Harris

concerns of manufacturers, but what businesses fear most is a return to the "boom and bust" of the late 1980s and early 1990s when interest rates hit 15 per cent and a million manufacturing jobs were lost.

We are on course to achieve economic stability. As a result of the immediate and tough decisions this government has taken, and consistent with Budget forecasts, there is a necessary slowing of inflationary pressures so that the economy gets back on track to low inflation matched by steady and sustainable growth.

DAVID BLUNKETT
Secretary of State
Department for Education and Employment
London SW1

those few advisors who may be commission-driven will soon find that they are losing business to more professional and cost-effective advisers.

Some years ago the insurance industry itself did propose maximum commission agreements between the insurers/institutions. The Office of Fair Trading deemed it "anti-competitive" and banned it.

Many independent financial advisers offer to work on a fee basis. However, most clients are unwilling to pay for this service, particularly if no subsequent business is transacted.

GRAHAM POGSON
Independent Financial Adviser
London SW13

Sir: We are told that the Government now proposes to

come down heavily on the insurance companies which "mis-sold" private pensions. I confess I am not quite sure what this word means. I cannot find it in any of my dictionaries. But it is clearly conduct which deserves to be punished.

We now learn that part of our rail system was sold off by the last government for about one billion pounds less than it was worth. Was it "mis-sold"? If so, cannot the present government do something about it?

GRAHAM DON
London E3

Church of Africa

Sir: So Trevor Phillips had only heard of two African bishops until this year's Lambeth Conference ("Comment", 10 August). He needs a

little education on the blood and thunder religion of Africa that is throwing up bishops who bear a not unhealthy resemblance to John the Baptist, and who certainly speak in no more forthright terms than his, when faced by the soft effeminate of much Western belief.

African Christians are rightly outraged when the very faith that the white missionaries struggled to bring them is then stood on its head and degenerated into its power and moral fibre. No wonder the Africans at Lambeth turned on a pusillanimous liberalism that is rapidly emptying many of the churches in this country as well as in the USA. It is no small insult, when members of your flock and your own colleagues have died in defence of the biblical faith and ethic, only to be told that these

doctrines need not have been believed after all.

Trevor Phillips dismisses the Africans as being part of the colonial and neocolonial establishment. No, it is liberalism that is on its way out. Lambeth showed in no uncertain manner where the centre of Anglican belief lies.

PREBENDARY RICHARD BEWES
Rector, All Souls, Langham Place
London W1

Sir: Unfortunately, the opinions expressed by the Anglican African Bishops on the subject of homosexuals, rather than being, as Trevor Phillips says, an attempt "to go back to some fire-and-brimstone version of Anglicanism" (was there ever such a thing?), reflect the attitudes towards homosexuality commonly found in Africa today. These range from persecution to accusations of homosexuality being a Western disease, or a total denial of its existence, or a total denial of its existence. If in doubt listen to any of the words of President Mugabe of Zimbabwe on the subject.

JEAN-MARC EVANS
London N3

Xenophobic anthem

Sir: I freely admit to being a Nationalist, if neither an anarchist or an atheist, but Donald Foreman (letter, 5 August) does fail to address important failings about the National Anthem.

Firstly in no sense is it a hymn. It was first sung by the Drury Lane players in 1745 as the Jacobite armies were advancing on London. The fourth verse that nobody has sung for donkey's years contained a plea to the Almighty to "crush native Scots".

How can such an 18th-century xenophobic duty be in any way seen as either Christian or National?

JAMES SAMUEL COLE

Neath, West Glamorgan

Police road-blocks

Sir: Would I be alone in expressing the utmost abhorrence after reading your report on "Operation Mermaid" ("Drivers face random searches at nationwide police road blocks", 12 August)?

Is the new "Cool Britannia" to become a police state? If there is any substance to your report then civil libertarians the world over have every cause for concern. It all means use every legitimate effort to track down those who perpetrate benefit fraud or any other criminal activity; do not do so utilising taxpayers' money in such an underhand way.

Shame on you, Mr Blair and your cronies. According to the principles of natural justice, two wrongs will never make a right. And, being a lawyer, you really should know better.

ANTHONY BOGAN
Solicitor
Member of the Council of the Law Society of England & Wales
London W12

Sir: The smaller-scale Operation Mermaid in June (reports, 12, 13 August) in which individuals were randomly stopped and questioned by the Benefits Agency, was carried out at ports, with cars being stopped under the guise of questioning from Customs, as well as by police on the roads.

I was stopped at 7.30 on a Monday morning at Dover, returning from a weekend in France and on my way to work. After being asked to show my ticket and passport, I was passed on to a Benefits Agency officer, who said she was going to ask me "a few questions". She did not tell me that I had the right to refuse to answer, or that I would subsequently be asked to sign a statement on the spot. It was an intimidating situation - I was in a Customs shed, surrounded by people in uniform and facing a locked door. I therefore did not protest at the time, despite feeling that this was a gross invasion of my privacy.

A letter of complaint to the then secretary of State for Social Security was passed to the Benefits Agency in Dover, who replied by saying that, according to their officer, I had been "happy to co-operate". Questions about the taking of statements, the purpose and effectiveness of the operation, and the authority under which it was carried out have not yet been answered.

I was glad to read that I am not alone in finding the Benefits Agency's need to hide behind other people's skirts in order to look for needles in haystacks to be pretty reprehensible.

MARY RICE
London SW6

CS gas alarm

Sir: The death of another man with mental health problems following the use of CS ("Man's death raises alarm over police use of CS spray", 11 August) strengthens our long-held view that increased arming of the police and the use of new weapons, be they guns, new-style batons or CS, inevitably results in more deaths. The current review of national police training should look at reducing the use of all weapons by the police unless the Government is prepared to tolerate the continued level of serious injury and loss of life and subsequent loss of confidence in the police.

It appears that the use of CS by the police has become routine in situations where time spent taking could defuse the situation. Spraying people with mental health problems is a violent act that can only frighten the individual and lead to serious injury and in some cases contribute to loss of life. The Government have defended it use on the grounds that it is potentially less harmful than a baton (Lords written answers, 6 August 1998) but the real questions to be asked is why violence is seen as the

preferred option above negotiation and dialogue.

HELEN SHAW
Co-Director, Inquest
London N4

Has Bill
on the

How to enjoy the beautiful game when Saturday comes

TOMORROW is the big day. Until this summer, you had resisted the social pressure to join the Saturday afternoon crowd. You had read your Nick Hornby but had been unimpressed by his portrait of a game as some kind of tedious universal metaphor. You were irritated by the way everyone seems to have become infected by a Motsenque world-view. Give and go, late tackle, he'll be disappointed with himself for that one: how puerile it all seemed.

It changed, didn't it? Maybe it was the Blanco Bounce or the chirpy Nigerians, or the enchantingly naive Americans. Even before Hoddle's Heartbreak Heroes triumphed, all but technically, against the Argies, you were hooked.

Now you cannot wait for the new season to start. You have chosen

your team. You have bought your scarf. But do you know how to behave when Saturday comes?

On being moved along by a policeman on a horse
Football fans and police officers have a joshing, happy relationship. So when a mounted policeman attempts to herd you forward with other supporters, nothing amuses him more than if you surreptitiously loosen the girths of his saddle. Seeing a PC slither under his horse's stomach will always add to the good spirit of the occasion.

Chatting with supporters of the opposing team
Ever since football was transformed from being a national disgrace into the game with a smile on its face, clubs have encouraged

fans to mingle with each other, comparing the relative merits of each team with good-natured ragging and badinage. If you are lucky enough to be surrounded by opposing supporters, it can add to the atmosphere to express a provocatively interesting view of their players, asking, for example, the name of the big carthorse they have in central defence. If they express disappointment with one of their own team, do not hesitate to agree.

Supporting the sincere efforts at impartiality on the part of the referee
There are few lonelier jobs in football than that of referee. At moments of controversy, express your solidarity with the official by standing up, pointing your finger and singing a traditional song created



TERENCE BLACKER
Even before the World Cup you were hooked.
Now you cannot wait for the season to start

in the memory of the World Cup's first referee, the Burmese legend Husha Wan Ka. Many a game has

been marked by supporters revealing their sense of history by chanting "Husha Wan Ka, Husha Wan Ka, Husha Wan Ka in the black"

Expressing solidarity with fans in the traditional way
Although the abolition of terracing has sadly led to decline in this practice, there are moments when supporters, standing close together, bond with the fan in front of them by "marking" them rather as dogs mark lampposts. Do not on any account remonstrate if someone marks you in this manner. It is his way of saying, with direct, manly body language, "You're all right, mate (or darling). You're one of us."

Intruding on the pitch
Around their ground, crouching with their backs to the game and

watching you are people in yellow coats known as "stewards". They are there to make you feel at home, rather in the manner of Redcoats at Butlin's holiday camps. A sure way of endearing yourself to a steward is to run on to the pitch when a goal is scored, skipping past his attempts to bring you down, and gambol about, swinging from the crossbar of the goal, embracing players and waving to the crowd. Purists insist you should remove all your clothes before you invade the pitch but this is a skilled manoeuvre that should perhaps be kept until your third or fourth visit.

Conversing with middle-class intellectuals in the crowd
These days, every club has its resident media thinker. Leicester City has Julian Barnes, Spurs have

Karl Miller and Ian Hamilton. The wing-collared scholar and biographer DJ Taylor is a Norwich fan; or, as he puts it, "numbers himself among stalwarts of the Norvician persuasion". If you hear one of these intellectuals talking throughout a game, as they tend to, it is quite acceptable to proffer the traditional greeting, "Shut the f--- up, you toffee-nosed tosser".

Celebrating a goal
Just as players fall on each other after a goal is scored in an ecstatic mite of the other form of "scoring", so you are expected to "mate" with opposing fans, jumping about on them in a humorous imitation of the sexual act.

Enjoy the game. You could be in for the most unforgettable 90 minutes of your life.

CH Vino VSD

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Democracy – a vital ingredient for a modern Europe

ROBIN COOK is right to raise the question of the viability of the European Union's political institutions. The European "democratic deficit" has troubled all who care about Europe and have watched what was once the Common Market become less and less merely a zone for free trade and more and more of a political entity, the "ever closer union" envisaged in the original Treaty of Rome. The economic progress of Europe has far outstripped its political development. The enduring democratic deficit gives rise to a doubt that gnaws at faith in the European ideal and it is one that, sooner or later, we must confront. Mr Cook stated an important truth when he said that "the only way you can meet that deficit is by tackling it via democratic institutions in which the public have confidence and with which they identify".

The plain truth is that Europe's institutions – the Council of Ministers, the Commission, the Parliament – are rooted in the mentality of the 1950s and are not up to realities of the new Europe. They represent a technocratic approach to politics and were designed to run a free-trade area of six nations in an era of "dirigiste" economic planning. They were a product of the Cold War, a way of bolstering Western Europe's security against the threat from the Warsaw Pact. They did deliver prosperity and stability to a continent not long since riven by war and genocide. The historical achievement need not be underestimated as we ponder their inadequacy for the future.

Today the lofty but distant political ambitions of the EU's founding fathers are closer than ever to reality, but in a Europe that they would scarcely have recognised. Free market economics, the collapse of the Eastern bloc and the expansion of the EU will bring us eventually a union of 20 or 30 states encompassing as equal citizens Belgian dentists and Polish farmers alike. This represents an awesome political challenge.

Mr Cook recognises this and is to carry out "brain-storming" sessions to generate new ideas.

One idea that has been floated, however, may benefit from some further thinking. The idea that members of national parliaments could meet together to increase political involvement seems to be more about revisiting the past than a radical notion for the future. After all, true national parliaments used to send delegations to what was then called the European Assembly before direct elections were introduced in 1979. But the revival of such a body would, however, at base be a "bolt-on"

to a rather unsatisfactory piece of machinery.

The deeper flaw with this proposition, and all those like it, is that it still represents a fundamentally national conception of Europe – a union of nation states. If this is the mindset then the ambition of European political entities will be put back rather than promoted by such reforms. A far more radical step for the Government would be to advocate the scrapping of the existing institutions and the election of some form of constitutional convention aimed at producing a simple constitution for the United States of Europe. Europe's citizens might then have new, democratic, institutions in which they have confidence and with which they identify. It is an

idea that has been raised by Paddy Ashdown and it deserves attention. Of course such a move would be met with the incredulity in Brussels that often greets even more modest proposals. Mr Cook does not want to enter the conference chamber merely to be ridiculed.

But the very failure of the modest proposals of the past – direct elections to the European Parliament, subsidiarity, the Europe of the Regions – suggests that there is little to be lost by some bold thinking. One reason that Mr Cook was retained in his post after the last reshuffle was for the intellectual clout he still brings to the cabinet table. The sooner he starts his brain-storming, the better.



Recognise, but don't approve, the Taliban

THE TALIBAN, whose Islamic zealotry has carried them to a string of military victories over the past month, are on the brink of re-unifying Afghanistan after 25 years of fratricide and destruction. It is time for the rest of the world to become hard-headed about its attitude to this regime, whose antics in the name of religion have been as dismissive of human rights as they have often been Monty Python-esque in tone.

Yes, the Taliban's attitude to women is despicable. Since 1996 they have been kept away from school – a denial of a most basic human right – and confined to the home and the veil. But they are also the regime that banned bananas because they are an aphrodisiac, decreed that all men should grow beards and announced that television is the instrument of Satan.

Less funny is their attitude to the cultivation of opium. An estimated 200,000 opium farmers are being plied with \$16.4m of the UN's money over four years to grow a more wholesome crop. Yet this year production increased by 25 per cent and it is estimated that 95 per cent of the UK's heroin originates there.

Not to recognise the regime, though, would be a mistake. In any situation, to disengage completely is to relinquish influence. And in this case the regime's loathing for Western culture means that any residual powers of persuasion we have are purely economic.

We can privately loathe the values espoused by the Taliban. But the policy should be one of recognition without approval. In this instance the "ethical" thing to do is look forward to a time when Afghan women can return to their educations and do everything in our power to bring that day about.

Wrong direction?

THERE IS a distinction in this country between those people who do the majority of its drink-driving and those who get caught. "Buy racers" attract the attention of the police, but the hardened drinkers (who began to drive before alcohol was such an issue) are by far the bigger problem in terms of numbers and, as with an iceberg, are more dangerous right up until the point of a disaster because, unless weaving drunkenly, they remain largely hidden. The new decision that the "limit" is to drop to two small glasses of wine or one pint of beer will affect only those who are conscientious already, and will hit rural communities particularly. Although the gulf is correct – less is always more here – only pressure from family and friends not to drink and drive will truly make a dent on the deadheads.

Has Bill Clinton become a stain on the office of presidency?

YESTERDAY MORNING, wearing a dark suit and a grave expression, President Clinton did what numbers of his predecessors have been called upon to do: he presided over the bleak ceremonial that attends the return of Americans killed in service overseas. Everything was as it should be: the Stars and Stripes at half-mast, the precision of the military; the President and the First Lady. As on each such occasion in the past, Mr Clinton's words and demeanour were the very model of what Americans expect from their President.

For a Briton, the uncynical awe in which Americans hold the President has something innocent and archaic about it, something perhaps of the way we once regarded the monarch. Patriotism and national leadership, like religion, are more intact here in the New World. Ordinary people fly the national flag in their gardens. They respect the President and the presidency. Which is why the resignation of Richard Nixon, under threat of impeachment, is widely seen even now not just as comeuppance, but as a national tragedy. It is also why the fall of Bill Clinton – who has never pretended to perfection – would be so hard for America to bear.

Cut now to "that dress". Is it really possible that a president who meets so many of the requirements of his office so admirably could be brought down by something so trivial, so distasteful as a stain on a young woman's dress? Depending on how Mr Clinton testifies on Monday, it is not only possible, but – especially if the stain turns out to be what it is alleged to be – inevitable.

Many in Washington, and still more

in the country at large, refuse even to entertain the possibility. They engage in some of the mental compartmentalising at which Mr Clinton so excels and say that "sex" is different. While the President may have "sinned", they say, he has committed no crime. Lying about sex should not count as perjury. At the further reaches of that view is the flagrantly primitive line that the more demonstrably virile the president, the more he respected his leadership.

Of those who would condemn the President, the most timid – so far – are the moralists on the political right, for whom unrepentant sin would constitute a bar to the highest office. Such a view might have discredited many of the more distinguished American presidents, but it has a certain consistency.

More vociferous are the legalists who insist that perjury is perjury, one and indivisible. If the President lied under oath, he should go. It is immaterial whether the lie came in a civil suit (as was the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit), whether it came in evidence that was judged "immortal" (as was Mr Clinton's in the Paula Jones case), whether the suit was dismissed (as was the Paula Jones suit was), whether the subject was sex (as it arguably is). What would happen, ask the legalists, if everyone took the oath so lightly? The whole foundation of the legal system would founder: That way lies impeachment.

Most compelling, however, as Mr Clinton prepares to become the first president to testify before a grand jury in defence of his own conduct, are the constitutionalists. They argue that whatever happens, whether or not a president's bodyguards may be

forgivable, but subject to the law, or is he above judgement? The courts have decreed that the President is a citizen, no more and no less. Where Mr Clinton is concerned, however, the people so far think otherwise.

While bosses are summarily dismissed for dalliances with office juniors, the President of the United States may entertain a young woman trainee in his office and further her career with impunity. While officers in the armed forces are liable to discharge for adultery, the Commander in Chief may pursue a relationship that was temporarily discouraged by the woman's transfer to – of all places – the Pentagon.

Mr Clinton, it seems, can get away with it. Americans are treating their President as a superior being, a superman, to whom man-made rules do not apply. They respect his handling of the office, and he reciprocates, as he did yesterday, with some fine presidential performances in which America takes pride. As long as the popular mood and the state of the law are out of kilter, Mr Clinton is probably safe. But if public opinion once catches up with the law, as it could do after Monday, Bill Clinton will be vulnerable, if not completely done for.

He may not, in the end, have lied under oath or broken the law. But he has flouted the rules, rules which ordinary Americans are expected to observe, rules he has publicly embraced. Were I an American voter and a Clintonite, it is this personal double standard that would test my loyalty – not the diminishing of the presidency or the toying with the law, but the selfsame question that has dogged Bill Clinton's presidency from the start: character.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"As far as passengers are concerned who are not interested in whose fault it is, they just want the trains to run." John O'Brian, Franchising Director, Office of Passenger Rail Franchising

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The love of liberty is the love of others; the love of power is the love of ourselves." William Hazlitt, English essayist



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ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Reaction as the war in Kosovo shows no sign of abating



than a huge exercise in deception. Nato appears undecided about punitive action against Serbia which it seemed fully poised for a few months ago. The West must now act or remain quiet forever. There is no third possibility. Serb leader Milosevic does not want to negotiate – or will do so only if Kosovo fully supports his preconditions for talks. If the West really wants to ensure human rights for the Albanians, Milosevic must be forced to enter negotiations as was the case in Bosnia.

Die Welt, Germany

"CAN WE hope for a 'reasonable' solution? The irreconcilable demands of both sides – independence for one, Serbian control for the other – certainly don't inspire confidence. The attempts at mediation voiced by the West suffer from a severe lack of credibility. We must clearly announce to both camps exactly what they can expect if talks fail. And fast – before repeated conflict closes the window of opportunity which, perhaps, is still open."

Libération, France

"MONTHS HAVE passed since Madeleine Albright warned that the US would not tolerate ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. Now thousands of Kosovo civilians are living like hunted animals. The US is standing by and watching. There is little confusion about this 'humanitarian catastrophe' in the making. Yet the West responds as it did as war crimes took place in Bosnia – threatening, wringing hands and urging restraint. The time is long past for feigning surprise at Milosevic's long-

The Washington Post

established villainy. If Clinton and the West are not prepared to act, they should at least have the decency to retreat into shamed silence."

The Washington Post

PANDORA

THE NATION has been holding its breath waiting for a real glimpse of the new face of William Hague's Conservative Party. Yesterday it came into much better focus, embodied in the attractive features of Hague's new Deputy Press Secretary. Her name is Priti Patel, she is 26, and has been a member of the Tory press office since 1997. Very Priti indeed, William.

IT WOULD make a great American "road" movie, the kind where two freewheeling buddies take off on a wild adventure across the States. On Wednesday we reported that Lady Thatcher and her great chum Nancy Reagan were kicking up their heels on Martha's Vineyard. Now word reaches us via the *New York Post* that Margaret and Nancy will be leaving the trendy New England island this weekend and heading on down to the Hamptons. Say, this could be even bigger than *Thelma and Louise*.

THE RELATIONSHIP between magazines and their advertisers is often a delicate one, in which the word "environment" is frequently used, but with a meaning that would baffle most Greenpeace activists. So it is that today's issue of *The Spectator* includes an environmentally concerned letter from the financier and restaurateur Rupert Hambro. "I was somewhat surprised that you should have chosen the headline 'Macdonald's Takeaway'." Hambro writes, "for the page on which Wilton's advertisement appeared." Hambro, of course, is chairman of the famous St James claret-and-oyster café non-Old Etonians know as Wilton's.

SINCE LEAVING his job as head of Random House, Harry Evans, 70, the former editor of *The Sunday Times*, has been dogged by unkind American press comment about his true role in his new job as vice-chairman and editorial director of the *New York Daily News*. Now he has given a definitive statement about his new role to American fashion mag *W*, particularly regarding his relationship with editor-in-chief Debbie Krenek. "Debby and I are

developing the paper together," Evans said. "But she's in the trenches, and I'm like the guy in the field tent, taking a glass of whisky and saying, 'Why don't you put the artillery on the other hill?'" Bully for you, Harry.

JACK STRAWS Home Office committee on the problem of paedophiles in the community is, according to a report in this newspaper yesterday, considering the establishment of a national centre to house child abusers after they are released from prison. This seems to be an unbelievably brainless strategy, in view of the recent outrage from communities across England who refused to accept just one convicted paedophile, Robert Oliver. Where on earth, let alone in Great Britain, does Straws expect to find a community willing to play host to a whole crowd of predatory sex offenders? New Labour; New Devil's Island?

ART LOVERS must be quivering with anticipation as the September opening of Gavin Turk's latest show at the South London Gallery approaches. Billed as "the artist at the centre of the Young British Art phenomenon", Turk's final show at the Royal College of Art was simply a blue plaque on the wall stating "Gavin Turk worked here". Now his career has "developed" to the point where one of his new works is a "chewing gum wall relief". Doesn't that sound gob-smackingly brilliant? Pandora can see why his gallery feels justified in claiming that Turk's art "blows apart traditions of visual culture, cannibalising art history and excavating the role of the artist at the end of the 20th century". But is that "excavating" as in digging a grave? Or as in digging deep into your bank account to buy a wall covered with gum?

ACCORDING TO one of Pandora's music industry sources, Sir Elton John has agreed to sing "Stand By Your Man" on a forthcoming CD tribute to the much-lamented C&W singer Tammy Wynette. Recent reports by American gossip writers about Sir Elton standing next to his partner David Furnish (pictured with John) in a wedding ceremony proved to be false, although Furnish said fans were sending the couple wedding presents. One man Sir Elton certainly will not be standing by in the conceivable future: John Reid, the manager he sacked earlier this year.

Fat can be a masculine issue as well

NOW THIS, I thought, reading the papers the other day, is the sort of scientific research I can see the point of. A doctor called, appropriately enough, Lean, has been carrying out various interviews with a broad range of men, and has come to a really interesting conclusion: men consistently lie about, or at least underestimate, the size of their waist to an alarming degree. On average, men think that their waists are two-and-a-half inches smaller than they really are.

I suppose what this means is what I had always gathered from observation, which is that no man within a decade of sexual desirability will admit to having a waist in excess of 34 inches, or at the absolute limit 36 inches, in circumference. Men who have not seen their feet in five years will blushing say "On a bad day 36".

The possessors of guts half the size of Wales will lie not only to their friends and partners, but also to shop assistants, and quite unembarrassed ask for size 34 trousers in *Top Man*. The unappealing results, fastened, *faute de mieux*, over the groin, may be seen

every high street in the land, frightening the horses.

Men are becoming wonderfully paranoid about their appearance, and beginning to develop a sense that they cannot just have a magnificent embankment into the nearest Pitcher and Piano and wait for the talent to melt into their podgy arms. Constantly barraged by images of hard stomachs, firm pecs



PHILIP HENSHER
No man within a decade of sexual desirability will admit to having a waist over 34 inches

and taut thighs on the covers of magazines, in advertisements for anything from cologne to ice-cream, the boys are seriously worried, and, if they cannot keep up, they are going to lie about it.

This is often presented as a deeply frightening development, an analogy to the steady drip of feminine images which has indirectly driven so many women into bulimia and anorexia. But I do not know that, in small doses, applied to men, it is such a bad thing. For a start, they do not, in general, take to recreational regurgitation; they join a gym and watch not only their appearance but their health improve. And that is no bad thing, whether it comes from high-mindedness or from the weediest paranoia.

Whatever the cause, a substantial injection of nervousness into men's relationships with potential sexual partners has been no very bad thing. I get the impression that 20 or so years ago, the fear that your partner might at some point choose to dump you for someone fitter, healthier and altogether more physically appealing was very much a one-way street; it simply did not

enter into the heads of most men. Since then, a steady stream of tabloid stories about "toy boys" and the discovery by the mass media of images of sexually attractive men have changed all that, and men are running scared.

If you want to see the result of this, look at the average gay man. Gay men have a forceful influence on their appearance; every morning they look in the mirror, and say to themselves: "Would I go to bed with that?" And the result is that the average gay man is more likely to belong to a gym, to do some exercise, to be healthier and quite probably be more physically appealing than a heterosexual man of the same age. It can be taken to extremes, and there is a fair amount of steroid abuse and a level of eating disorders which have been observed among gay men in search of a body they can call their own. But among the mass of Soho boys, a modicum of paranoia has been beneficial.

No doubt, in time, the same will happen to heterosexual men: a casual, hurtful insult, and then a few days of black worry, a *mouvement* *quart d'heure* before the mirror, and it has been beneficial.

Men ought to care about how physically attractive they are, just as much as they ought to care about their conversation, and considerably more than their care, on the whole, about where their career is going. Lying about your waistline is a small step, but undoubtedly a step in the right direction. And if you ask me what I know about it, I will say, like every other man, that it does not concern me; because my waist measures no more than 34 inches, on a bad day, and I have never given it the slightest thought.

Language, liberty and the English of our dictionaries

"LANGUAGE", WALTER Bagehot grandly declared, "is the tradition of nations." And what, precisely, would one learn about the English from contemplating their language? Most significantly that they cherish liberty: not the French codified or the German goosestepping kind, but individual liberty.

The arch English-speaker is Humpy Dumpty, with his assertion that words mean what he wants them to mean. One cannot imagine a French or a German egg saying that. The British hate rules, no more so than in how they speak, or should speak. We love dictionaries because, unlike academics, they do not legislate, they merely describe. They are not rule books but maps to a newly explored territory.

This month sees the publication of two such lexical maps, *The New Oxford Dictionary of English* and the revised *Chambers Dictionary*. They are rivals and the stakes are high. An authoritative dictionary, like the Bible, Spock or Shakespeare, will become not just a bestseller but a long seller for decades. But a successful dictionary requires daunting investment: the NODE, we are told, was six years in the making and cost £6m. It seems a lot, until you realise that monumental as the achievement is, it stands on the shoulders of the 12-volume original *New English Dictionary*, which took 70 years (1856-1926) to assemble at 10 times the cost.

OUF's publicity department knew that they would get front-page publicity by announcing that from yesterday, you are allowed to split infinitives - official. The "split-infinitive" news release was rather naughty on Oxford's part - it's not the role of dictionaries (certainly not a dictionary founded on descriptive principles, like the NODE), to lay down the law. And anyway, for the record, the split infinitive was quite



JOHN SUTHERLAND
We hate rules but we love dictionaries because they do not legislate, they merely describe

etly given the green light two years ago, in Sidney Greenbaum's *Oxford English Grammar* (1996). In a remote subsection, Greenbaum demonstrated conclusively that there are sentences in which the infinitive "must be split". For example,

this from an *Any Questions* programme: "Certainly all members of the panel here tonight are too young to really remember the World War". Move "really" around the sentence (really too young, really to remember) and you have palpably different meanings. As Greenbaum also pointed out, adherence to the prohibition on split infinitives was, like so much in the English language, a single thing. In Latin, infinitives are single compound words. To divide them is un-Latin. Who cares about Latin? The public school types who rule us. Splitting infinitives is the victory of the Gas Works Secondary Modern over Eton.

There is, as George Orwell never tired of pointing out, something inherently healthy in the anarchic richness of the English language. To

tartarian societies regulate lan-

guage because they want to regulate thought (Stalin, one should remember, was a world-class linguist as well as a tyrant). Impoverish and systematise language and you botomise the population. With no great ideological agenda, but sensible intuition, the English treasure the irrationality of English - the sheer lunacy of such locutions as: "he chopped the tree down, and then he chopped it up" (we can, in these free and easy times, end sentences with a preposition; and I don't even have to feel guilty about not saying "we may"). George Bernard Shaw left a sizeable portion of his wealth to the cause of rationalising English spelling. All in vain: it would make sense to spell "government" "gov'ment" - and it would certainly make primary school less arduous. But we love the eccentricity of "plough", "rough" and "through" all spelled the same and spoken differently. It makes us feel free people.

Languages which derive from a single linguistic root (like Italian, Spanish or Greek) are generally poor in duplicates and synonyms. English - enriched by waves of foreign invasion - is extraordinarily rich in words ostensibly meaning the same thing. It's not just redundancy. As Walter Scott pointed out, cow and beef (French boeuf), sheep and mutton (French mouton), pig and pork (French porc) contain within them a little oppression narrative. The Normans saw the meat on the table, the Saxons tended the animals in the field. The split between Latin and Saxon words (fellation/knob-gobble) derives from the dominance of a literate clergy in the Catholic church over the illiterate masses. As Nancy Mitford pointed out in the 1950s, with U and non-U usages (napkin, or serviette?), English polysemy - or multiple-wordedness - permits an inexcusable

resource of class nuance. The English language is not just the nation's history but its sociology.

So it's in order to whole-heartedly rejoice in another addition to our linguistic freedom - or is it? The NODE sees its lexical territory inexorably expanding - there are 2,000 new expressions in its pages defining the social lineaments of the 1990s, from alcopop, through Blairism and bonkbuster, to sleaze. English is getting richer in words and freer in usage all the time.

The richness, redundancy and complexity of English is wonderful for wordsmiths, but not necessarily good for those who need to avoid ambiguity. The reason that French is traditionally the lingua franca of diplomacy is that it is essentially unambiguous (although De Gaulle perpetrated one of history's most famous pieces of double-talk with "je vous ai entendu", that's pieds-noirs thought was "I have understood you" not "I have listened to you").

In many situations ambiguity can be not just confusing but disastrous. Say "look out" when the

train is hurtling towards a narrow tunnel and your companion may get his head knocked off (the French "attention!", or German "Achtung!" would be much safer).

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youth; there is also a basic characteristic of the market system. You must now speak always of the market system: the word capitalism, once the common reference, has acquired a deleterious Marxian sound.

The deeper fact is that good times can lead on to a speculative mood; that is a cover for destructive behaviour - for economic and financial conduct and action that destroys the very prosperity that gave it cover.

There is nothing new about this; it has been a recurring phenomenon for much of the millennium just past - from the Tulip mania of Holland in 1637, to John Law's still undiscovered gold mines in Louisiana in 1720 and, for any British audience, the experience of the South Sea Bubble. The latter name, I would note, underplays the drama. The true speculative imagination in that case centred on a company to drain the Red Sea, thus to recover the treasure left at the passing of the Israelites. The stock of the company had a very good run.

It goes on in the last century to speculative episodes at roughly 30-year intervals.

There is more here than

the cumbersomeness of the market system.

Any period of prosperity, any time of high income, general well-being, can be a euphoric cloak for destructive tendencies. These the ensuing recession or depression, however denoted, then exposes and eliminates. The heroes of the boom are the condemned of the crash.

All this has been true of the past. It could be true of the present. In these last years we have had, first in Japan and now in New York and Wall Street, clear manifestations of the speculative mood.

That mood is wonderfully variable. Securities prices or commodity prices or real estate values are going up; individuals and their financial agents and advisers are attracted. They buy - it is said, to invest. This causes prices to go up further; expectations are thus justified by the very action that was induced by the expectation.

This is the classic speculative bubble. It builds on itself and it does not come gently to an end. There may be a period of hesitation, then a sudden rush to reality.

There is, however, a reality here that even the most

increased

resource of class nuance. The English language is not just the nation's history but its sociology.

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Science's love of publicity



JOHN
MADDOX

There is good evidence that researchers deliberately set out to scoop their competitors

NOT EVERY day is a scientist "effectively sacked", to use Dr Árpád Pusztai's own words. To many of his fellow scientists, it will seem yet more proof that meddling with the press (or in this case a television programme, *World in Action*) is a recipe for the worst disasters. Yet relations between professional scientists and the media are not openly antagonistic. Instead, they are shot through with ambivalence. The professionals now look to the media to tell their own stories favourably, and in a way that will help secure research funds.

Dr Pusztai's case is unusual. Widely known for his knowledge of the plant proteins called lectins, he was working at the Rowett Research Station in Scotland and involved in an experiment that was clearly a preparation for a more rigorous test of the safety of genetically-modified potatoes. The lectins come into the tale because they are natural insecticides: plants making them are expected to be resistant to attack. Eventually, the people at the laboratory would have fed genetically modified potatoes to rats to see whether they were harmed. Lacking real modified potatoes, they had used the ordinary version doused with pure lectins from various plants (not potatoes).

Yesterday's newspapers were full of Pusztai's thumbnail account of the experiment. Yet the distinction between real modified potatoes and the spiked diet fed to the rats was never explained. If it had been, the irrelevance of the experiment to the safety of genetically-modified potatoes would have been plain. Sceptical readers asking "What was the dose of lectin?" could not have learned the answer. Yet Dr Pusztai seemed pleased with the outcome of the TV appearance, being quoted as saying that "the jack-bean lectin gene will never get a licence".

It is not clear whether his error (in the eyes of the managers of the Rowett) was bureaucratic (not clearing what he wanted to say in advance) or scientific (drawing practical conclusions from the results of a preliminary experiment). But there is no suggestion that either he or his research programme would have prospered



Some scientists will claim any discovery to get on the front page of 'The New York Times'. A scene from 'Frankenstein'

because of his appearance. Would that were more often the case!

Even before the present cut-throat competition for research funds, the ambivalence of the most earnest laboratory workers, about publicity has been clear. I first learned this when I started working as a journalist (on what was then *The Manchester Guardian*). Embarked on writing an experiment at Harwell in which radioactive iodine was being fed to a goat called Doris, I telephoned the man in charge, whose surname was Williams. Most reluctantly, he parted with the essential information, which was that the objective was to learn something of the transfer of dietary iodine to the thyroid gland (a matter of great importance in understanding the high incidence of thyroid cancer among the people of Belarus as

a consequence of Chernobyl).

Williams and I ended our conversation barely on speaking terms, so plainly had he made his point about the malevolent capacity of journalists to get things wrong. But then he called back, to say that he was anxious that I had taken down his initials correctly. He explained that there was another Williams working in much the same field, and that he had not got to be confused with the other fellow.

Now, much more egregious instances of scientists seeking publicity are commonplace. Perhaps the most striking recent illustration is the great hoop-la attending the announcement by a group of NASA scientists that they had found "evidence" of life in a meteorite reaching the Earth from Mars. There was a proper scientific paper

in an American journal, but also a press conference orchestrated by NASA itself.

Although the members of the team responsible hedged everything they said with the proper qualifications, the impression left in the minds of the world's newspaper readers is that there was, indeed, life on Mars at some stage in the distant past. That cannot have been inconvenient for NASA, which is looking for a strong wind in the sails of its high (and expensive) ambitions for the exploration of Mars.

It is especially disappointing that many individual scientists now seem eager to follow the same path. Often, their universities will arrange the press conference. If the news of their latest discovery should find its way onto the front page of the *New York Times* (US

scientists are more competitive than most other countries), that is counted as worthwhile as the discovery itself.

That working scientists are concerned that they should be given credit for what they discover is understandable. In the last resort, the report of a scientist's work in the record is all that posterity will know about his contribution. But that does not require current publicity, but rather the judgement of those able to read the scientific record and to reflect on it.

So why do serious scientists seek publicity, even if awkwardly (like Dr Williams and his goat)? The standard excuse is that publicity helps to win research grants and is good for morale in the laboratory. There is no evidence for the first claim; most grant-making bodies

are inclined to scepticism. And the boost to laboratory morale may be short-lived, as when other scientists start chipping away at over-blown claims. Remember Dolly, the Roslin Institute's first cloned sheep, and the later assertion that her cloning could not be authenticated?

There is a great need for the research profession to take a cooler view of publicity for its discoveries. There is good evidence that researchers deliberately set out to scoop their competitors, even taking advantage of information gleaned during the refereeing process. Such activities are corrosive of the civility of the scientific enterprise, which prides itself on the notion that it is a common enterprise. Newspapers need to police themselves as rigorously as researchers do.

RIGHT OF REPLY



HUNTER
DAVIES

The Beatles'

biographer responds

to Max Clifford's

remarks about his

role in their career

ON WEDNESDAY ("You Ask the Questions"), you let Max Clifford get away with one of the whoppers he has been peddling for many years. It may be true, it may be only a slight exaggeration, or it may be total cobblers, but once again he has been allowed to state publicly, without any cross examination, without a "wow, Max, how did you do it?", or even a "but, er, tell us a few more details about how exactly you made The Beatles famous". For that is what he appears to be claiming.

But did he? I have 200 books about the Beatles, yet not one mentions Mr Clifford.

The Beatles had their own PR people and the brilliant Brian Epstein working hard to promote them, though they scarcely needed much publicity because all that really happened in 1962 when they joined Parlophone – one of the minor parts of the EMI empire – was that the success they had achieved in Liverpool and Hamburg, with no publicity at all, was repeated, this time on a national scale.

Then people from the US to Japan reacted exactly in the same way once they had heard the music. Very strange. Almost spontaneous combustion, or so I have always thought. But I could be wrong. It was Max not done it. Or so he says.

EMI employed many persons. It would be useful if Mr Clifford could tell us the exact dates he was there, and in what capacity. Head of PR, director of marketing? Must have been pretty impressive, to look back upon his time there, "launching The Beatles", as the biggest success in his whole professional life.

I am not suggesting he is a fibber. I am only asking questions. I hope that Mr Clifford will one day be kind enough to reveal the details of the brilliant work he must have done in launching The Beatles.

The poet as frustrated composer



FRIDAY BOOK

WAKEFULNESS
BY JOHN ASHBERY. CARCANET PRESS, £7.95

HAROLD BLOOM regards him as something akin to a genius; James Fenton, Oxford professor of poetry, calls him a bore and a phoney. Few other poets of John Ashbery's age and eminence – he is in his seventies now, and this is his 18th collection – can have so divided the critics. Why is this? I asked him once. "Well, it is disappointing," he replied with a characteristically self-deprecating sigh, "since I write hoping that people will read and like what I've written, and I don't want to antagonise people. It turns out that I'm much stranger than I thought I was."

That is quite true. Ashbery is very strange indeed. And he has spawned a pack of equally strange imitators, which includes the companionable Manchester-born poet John Ash. But where did all this strangeness come from? To get a clue to the answer, you need to know a little about his background and interests. It would also be useful to consult an early book or two – the recently published omnibus edition of his first five collections of poetry, called *The Mooring of Starting Out* (Carcanet, £25) for example, or his Pulitzer Prize-winning collection of the middle Seventies, *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror*. When Ashbery started writing, in the late For-

ties, American poetry was dominated by a kind of poker-faced academic formalism. He and other poets who have been loosely grouped together as the New York School (Frank O'Hara, James Schuyler, Kenneth Koch) set sail in a different direction altogether. Encouraged by the liberating influence of French Surrealism, they moved towards poetry that was more intellectually fanciful and flighty, more colloquial, more playful and humorous, more flexible in its approach to metrics.

Ashbery spent 10 years in Paris, and it was there that he first began to write art criticism for the *International Herald Tribune*. One of his most self-revelatory critical pieces was an interview with Henri Michaux, the Belgian neo-Surrealist Michaux said in the course of that

interview that Surrealism had given him "la grande permission" to write as he pleased. Ashbery was pleased to do likewise.

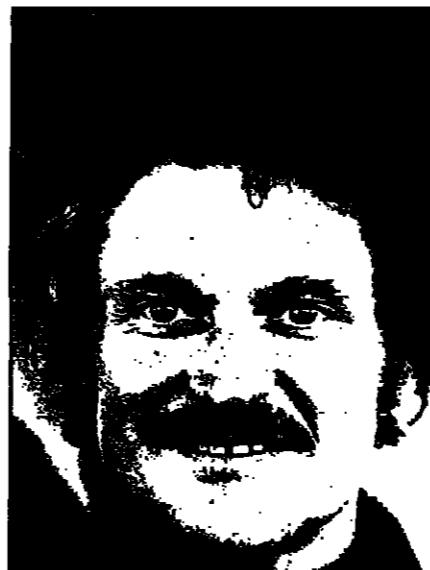
And how exactly is Ashbery pleased to write? What is interesting about his writing manner is the extraordinary consistency and continuity that exists between them – his first book, chosen by W.H. Auden for the Yale Younger Poets series, was published in 1952 – and now. Reading an Ashbery poem is rather like walking beside a stranger and eavesdropping on a conversation that he seems to be having with an invisible companion. The conversation is a pretty intimate one, and it spills all over the place, depending upon the responses of the absentee – which, of course, you are never fortunate enough to hear.

The manner can shift, within the space of a line or even a phrase, from the urbane and polished to something disarmingly ridiculous, from Faure to Comic Cuts – as real conversations often do. No sooner do you think that you are hearing about one particular area of interest than you are somewhere else altogether.

Ashbery generally writes while listening to music, and the musical accompaniment to any day's writing depends on his enthusiasms of the moment. Fairly recently he has been enjoying the music of Dominic Muldowney (the composer who regularly collaborates with the poet Tony Harrison) and the extravagantly named, but in fact Glasgow-born, late-19th-century pianist-composer Eugène d'Albert.

Music itself appeals to Ashbery because it is an art form that can mean important things without having to explain itself. And so Ashbery the poet, in this reading, is best enjoyed if viewed as Ashbery the frustrated composer, who is trying to do with words what musicians are lucky enough to be able to do with notes. Hell's bells! who gives a cowpat about the mediation of some tiresome paraphrase?

One of the best poems in this new collection



The poet John Ashbery is strongly influenced by music

Hulton

is a kind of collage of quotations from other poets – Milton, Marvell, Lear and others – called "The Dong with the Luminous Nose", which are juxtaposed in such a way as to bring out their full comic potential when wrenched from their native habitats. The form, as the headline informs us, is a cento, and it dates from the Byzantine era. Ashbery discovered this curiously interesting fact in a curiously interesting piece of writing by Borges.

Ashbery's characteristic tone of voice, with its deadpan humour and abrupt shifts of attention, is difficult to locate at first, and can even seem wilfully bewildering. One way of relaxing into it is to hear Ashbery read. He sometimes speaks his lines with a kind of deliberately woe-begone and world-weary flatness. It is a manner which I once described as the sort of vocal delivery that might encourage a dog to leave home. Some time later, I dropped him a card. By return came a note from his dog, telling me that John was unable to reply because he had just left home.

MICHAEL GLOVER

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FRIDAY POEM

SNAKE KEEPER

BY PAMELA WILKIE

Speech slithers between his lips.
Watch for that furtive tongue
savouring its sibilants,
the smile glistening from years
of cold-blooded rapport.
Unusual his calibration of delight,
snake-bite amuses him.

In his den beside the pit
he offers you a second-hand skin

This is our final selection from *Ambit 153*. The magazine costs £6
for a single copy or £22 for an annual subscription,
from 17 Priory Gardens, London N6 5OY

Lt-Col Mike Watkins

MIKE WATKINS was one of a rare breed of soldiers who specialised in that most dangerous of peacetime roles, bomb disposal. He was an intellectual and an enthusiast who dedicated his life to the business of explosive ordnance investigation, including service tours in Northern Ireland and helping to find the explosive source of the Lockerbie disaster.

Even for a man who had chosen an extraordinary career, Watkins earned a reputation as a remarkable operator in the dangerous field of ammunition and bomb disposal. Many of those who knew him well have called him visionary and compassionate – the very stuff of a modern, unsung hero. His work to make safe military ammunition from previous generations only added to his reputation as a driving force in this often secretive world.

Born in Newport, Monmouthshire, in 1947, it was at Monmouth Grammar School that Watkins decided on the British Army as a career. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps as a private soldier in 1962 and progressed through the ranks rapidly. After three years' apprenticeship and trade training at Feltham, in Middlesex, and Didcot, in Oxfordshire, Watkins was promoted corporal.

In 1966, he undertook the arduous P Company parachute training, gaining his wings at RAF Abingdon and spending three years with 16 Parachute Brigade at Aldershot, where he was promoted to sergeant. He honed his EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) expertise at the British army's Ammunition Inspectorate at Wilton, near Salisbury, before moving to the then home of ammunition technology at Bramley Camp, near Basingstoke. During this time, he also held a war role with 47 Air Despatch Squadron, capitalising on his airborne experience.

By this time, the Army's expertise in EOD was almost on daily call in Northern Ireland. Terrorist bombs were a regular threat to normal life in the Province and soldiers like Mike Watkins were daily risking their lives to defuse home-made bombs and bobby-traps. Watkins and his colleagues have gone without true public awareness because of the nature of the job, which in these early days was like venturing into the unknown. Watkins served in Omagh in 1974 and received his first Mention in Despatches – a second followed four years

later during one of two emergency tours in Belfast and South Armagh. By this time, Watkins had been promoted Warrant Officer Class Two. A desire to use his expertise for the general good had already become apparent. Even before his work in Northern Ireland, he had secured a posting to the British Solomon Islands in 1973 to spend seven months to help dispose of ammunition and aerial bombs left behind by Japanese and US forces in the Second World War, making safe the rural areas of these beautiful islands for agriculture and tourism.

Recognising his expertise and leadership skills, the Army commissioned Watkins in 1980 and as a

A remarkable operator in the dangerous field of bomb disposal; visionary and compassionate – the very stuff of a modern, unsung hero

Lieutenant he was posted to 6 Field Force at Aldershot. Within nine months, he was promoted Captain and began training as an Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO), an army bomb disposal expert.

ATO's work in dangerous conditions to defuse devices often fabricated with anti-handling devices – booby traps – designed to kill or maim the bomb disposal expert. The very nature of this work is secretive and those who carry it out often need to work under cover. Occasionally, television or newspaper pictures will show army personnel in protective clothing walking purposefully towards a car or building thought to contain a bomb. That's all the public recognition ATOs receive, yet their work has been vital in the towns, cities and rural communities of the United Kingdom where explosives have been placed or discarded.

After two further years of such work in Northern Ireland, Watkins was appointed MBE for his work in the Province and promoted again, to Major in 1986. Then came an important posting as the Senior Ammunition Technical Officer to the Falkland Islands, where he directed a tri-service team clearing explosives, including the legacy of Argentine landmines, left behind after the 1982 invasion.

To use his considerable experience further, the Army posted him to the Ministry of Defence in London in 1990 to oversee the procurement of specialist equipment and requirements for bomb, landmine and ammunition disposal. Using his experience of bomb disposal around the world, Watkins was able to shape research carried out by the Defence Evaluation & Research Agency and commercial industry into making better, safer equipment to aid the bomb disposal expert.

In 1992, he returned to Didcot as a Lieutenant-Colonel and took over responsibility for explosives safety

and licensing policy within the armed forces. Despite his new position as Head of Explosive Ordnance Disposal at the Directorate of Land Service Ammunition, Royal Logistics Corps, Watkins still found time for his hobbies.

He died tragically, buried under a roof fall, when exploring the maze of tunnels dug by British, Canadian, French and German troops under the trenches of Vimy Ridge, on the Somme battlefield, near Arras in the First World War.

Watkins was no stranger to the 20 miles of tunnels of Vimy Ridge. Earlier this year, as a member of the Durand Group which explores the tunnels on behalf of the French and Canadian governments, he took part in making safe over three tons of deteriorated explosives which threaten the Canadian War Memorial on the surface above. It was the first such disarming to be carried out in the tunnels since 1918. Watkins saw such work, not strictly his army

role, although supported by the Ministry of Defence, as an important task for future generations to be able to enjoy the famous First World War battlefield in safety.

His death is a blow to those researching the tunnels. Watkins had teamed with the television producer Marc Sinden to make a documentary series about the tunnels, which are also vividly described in Sebastian Faulks's award-winning novel *Birdsong*.

His breath of experience and wealth of knowledge, linked to a kind and compassionate nature, made Mike Watkins a father-figure to many a young soldier. He still found time for hang-gliding, veteran rugby, skiing and motor sport.

Paul Beaver
Michael Keith Watkins, born Newport, Monmouthshire 3 July 1947; MBE 1984; married 1989 Rowena Drage (one son); died Vimy Ridge, France 11 August 1998.

Watkins was killed when a tunnel collapsed under First World War trenches at Vimy Ridge



Sylvia Field

ALTHOUGH SHE was a versatile actress of stage, screen and television, who between 1920 and 1950 had leading roles in over 40 plays, it was through television that Sylvia Field became a well-known name to the general public, with her role as Martha Wilson, the kindly next-door neighbour who always had a smile and plate of warm biscuits ready for the mischievous young lad in the adaptation of *Dennis the Menace*.

Her early roles had included a good share of chorus-girls and vamps, but by the Forties the actress had patented a beguiling line in understanding wives and mothers, perfectly showcased in the classic film comedy *Junior Miss*. In 1941 she married as her third husband the diminutive, raspy-voiced actor Ernest Truex. They had acted on Broadway together playing man and wife as early as 1934 in the bedroom farce *Sing and Whistle*. Truex specialised in flustered and excitable characters which were neatly complemented by the catty and ultra-feminine Field on the frequent occasions that they played a married couple.

Born Harriet Johnson in Aliston, Massachusetts, in 1901, Field attended Arlington High School and in 1918 made her Broadway debut as Joy and the "Veiled Figure" in *The Betrothal*. After more plays and a season in repertory in Canada, she took over the juvenile lead in the long-running comedy thriller *The Cat and the Canary* in New York (1922) and played the same part on tour.

She returned to Broadway to play the title role in *Connie Goes Home* (1923), the first of many leading roles, notably in such landmark productions as George S. Kaufman's *The Butter and Egg Man* (1925), Philip Dunning and George Abbott's smash hit *Broadway* (1926), in which the *New Yorker* lauded her



Sylvia Field, left, with, left to right, her husband Ernest Truex, Cameron Mitchell and Glynis Johns in *All Mine to Give*, 1957

"superlatively good work" as a chorus girl loved by a dancer; Kaufman and Edna Ferber's *The Royal Family* (1927), in which she played the youngest member of a theatrical dynasty, A.A. Milne's *Give Me Yesterday* (1931), as a Yorkshire girl whose true love forsakes her in pursuit of success, and Richard Maibaum's *Birthright* (1933), which ran for only seven performances but is notable

as the first Broadway play to confront the subject of Nazism. Outside New York, Field played such roles as Fanny in Ivor Novello's *Autumn Crocus* and Leonora in John Van Druten's *There's Always Juliet*. After succeeding Dorothy Gish on Broadway as the wife of Oliver Wendell Holmes in *The Magnificent Yankee* (1946), she played the part for a year on tour.

Field made her screen debut with a silent movie, *The Escaped Flapper* (1929), and in the same year had the female lead in MGM's first all-talking gangster film *Voice of the City*, but her finest film role came in 1946 with George Seaton's scintillating adaptation of the Broadway hit *Junior Miss*. As wife to Allyn Joslyn, who is forever on the verge of apoplexy due mainly to the antics

of his youngest daughter, Field, in a performance of warmth and humour, provided a convincing picture of calm and good sense as his loving and understanding partner.

She entered television with a local show about her own domestic life, *The Truez Family* (she had a daughter and three stepsons), and was a guest star in over 30 shows, including *Perry Mason*, *Father Knows Best* and *Hazel*, but had her greatest successes as Mrs Remington (with Truex as her husband) in *Mr Peepers* (1953-55), and as Martha Wilson in *Dennis the Menace* (1959-62), in which Jay North starred as a live version of Hank Ketcham's cartoon imp. Field's husband in this show, the garrulous George, was played by Joseph Kearns, who died before the end of the 1962 season and was replaced by Gale Gordon, playing George's brother.

Her last major film was the sentimental favourite *All Mine To Give* (1957), called *The Day They Gave Babies Away in Britain*. In this the story of an oldest child's efforts to find his baby siblings homes on Christmas Day, after their widowed mother dies, Truex and Field were the village doctor and his wife, who eventually agree to become surrogate parents.

After the death of Truex in 1973, Field remained at their home in Fallbrook, south of Los Angeles, where she enjoyed fishing, golfing, and tending her avocado orchard.

Tom Vallance

Harriet Louise Johnson (Sylvia Field), actress; born Aliston, Massachusetts 14 February 1901; married 1924 Robert J. Fronholt (marriage dissolved 1939); 1930 Harold Moffat (died 1938; one daughter); 1942 Ernest Truex (died 1973; three stepsons); died Fallbrook, California 31 July 1998.

Rosemary Edmonds

ROSEMARY EDMONDS was one of the doughty band of translators enlisted by Penguin Books after the Second World War to open foreign classics to the mass audience. Her huge version of *War and Peace* remains the standard English text of Tolstoy, still in print after 40 years.

The early history of Penguin, like the early history of the BBC, is a catalogue of high aspirations and shameless opportunism. The Penguin Classics, among the most successful and distinguished contributions to the Penguin marque, began as the brainchild of one man, E.V. Rieu, a classical scholar who had become stuck in a rut of educational publishing. To while away his evenings, he would translate aloud to his wife, Nelly, who persuaded him to go one better and work up a new translation of *The Odyssey*. The project took eight years. When he offered it to Allen Lane, founder of the Penguin imprint in 1938, Lane, against the advice of his editors, jumped at it and gave Rieu the job of editor of a series of classics in translation. *The Odyssey* came out as no 1 of the Penguin Classics in 1946 and by the time of Rieu's retirement in 1964 some 150 titles were published or in commission, and the classics were selling nearly a million copies a year.

Rieu was down-to-earth, a good editor with a fine ear. "Write English," he said by way of advice. "Read it aloud." The lasting success of his own translations of Homer (*The Iliad* followed in 1950), not to mention *The Four Gospels* (1952), testifies to his strength as a purveyor of plain English. Not many translations wear for more than a generation, but the early Penguin Classics, from the Greek tragedians to *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Cervantes to Flaubert, still living research and the compilation of a complete dictionary. In this she worked closely with Archimandrite Sophrony who had founded the community. (He must have been one of the last alive to have met Rasputin. "That is Rasputin – he is not one of us," said the abbot of the monastery, where Sophrony was studying icons.)



Portrait drawing of Leo Tolstoy by Feliks Topolski for the Folio Society edition of Edmonds's translation of *War and Peace*, 1971. It first appeared in 1957

Tolstoy was a pantheist, not a Christian, a moralist, not a mystic. His "private tragedy", she adds, was that having got to the gates of the Optina monastery, in his final flight, he could go no further, and died. It was Paris, after the Liberation, that Edmonds met Archimandrite Sophrony, a Russian émigré monk who sowed her interest in Russian Orthodox spirituality. Sophrony had, as Sergei Zacharov, been an artist in Paris after the First World War before receiving his vocation and moving to Mount Athos. He became the disciple of Father Silouan (Silouan) at the Russian monastery of Pantaleimon and then, in 1938, after Silouan's death, a hermit. He was ordained during the Second World War, returned briefly to Mount Athos and then tried to set up a community in Paris. When that failed, he moved, partly through the agency of Rosemary Edmonds, to Essex, where in 1959 he started a monastery at Tolleshurst Knights, near Maldon.

Sophrony had published a book, in Russian, about his mentor Father Silouan. Edmonds translated this in 1958 as *The Undistorted Image*, which transmogrified into *The Monk of Mount Athos: Staretz Silouan, 1856-1938* (1973) and *Wisdom from Mount Athos* (1974). She did much other work for Sophrony and also translated his 1977 book *His Life is Mine*. The Archimandrite died five years ago, aged 96. His monastery at Tolleshurst Knights continues.

James Ferguson

Rosemary Edmonds lived a life that touched the events of this century at many points, writes Michael Edmonds.

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Benny Waters

FEW PEOPLE are fortunate enough to have the description "world's most modern saxophone player over 90" applied to them. When the French Ministry of Culture awarded Benny Waters the title Chevalier in 1995, that's how they described him. Only Benny Carter, who came up on the rails when he hit 90 in August last year, usurped him.

Waters was never a great player and certainly had none of Carter's inventive genius, but he was good and he had the gumption to be in the right place at an exceedingly large number of right times. He was the last person on earth to record with Joe "King" Oliver, the cornet player who was the major influence on the young Louis Armstrong. Oliver's last recording was in 1931. Waters also taught both Johnny Hodges and Harry Carney, two of the finest saxophonists in jazz, long before they became the stars of the Duke Ellington Orchestra. And he was in the band at the Apollo Theatre in New York when Ella Fitzgerald sang in public for the first time.

He began his commercial career at 14, working in his brother's band, on the diminutive E flat clarinet. By 1920 he had moved to Boston where he played in a band with Johnny Hodges, of whom he said, "I would class Hodges as a natural, like Louis Armstrong or Sidney Bechet." Waters stayed in Boston for four or five years. "I had about 55 pupils in Boston. I was doing radio work three times a week and getting paid for it, one of the first negroes to do commercial radio. I had Harry Carney as a pupil for a long time."

In 1925 he left Boston and his pupils, to join the star-studded Charlie Johnson band that was playing in Atlantic City. "It was with Johnson from 1925 to 1932. I was there when all the boys were coming in – Sidney De Paris, Jimmy Harrison and of course Benny Carter." During the Thirties Waters played in the seminal band led by Fletcher Henderson and for three years with bands led by the trumpeter Hot Lips Page. He worked for the Claude Hopkins Orchestra for another three years before joining Jimmy Lunceford in 1941. Then he formed his own band and played with it in New York for three years.

Waters went to California to visit his wife who was working there in an army entertainment unit, and didn't return. Instead he formed another band and worked in the naval base at San Diego for three years.

Then he joined Roy Milton's blues band and stayed until 1950. Visiting old friends from the Charlie Johnson band at Jimmy Ryan's illustrious New York



A player in the right place at a large number of right times: Waters in 1987

bar he found that Bob Wilber, the band leader, was due to go into the army. His job was offered to Waters and again he stayed for the apparently mandatory three years. The band included a mixture of young and veteran players, amongst them the trumpeter Henry Goodwin, the pianist Dick Wellstood, the trombonist Jimmy Archey, the bassist Pops Foster and the drummer Tommy Ford.

The band toured Europe in 1952 and Waters met an old friend, the trumpeter Bill Coleman, in Zurich. He immediately joined Coleman's band. The band toured Switzerland, Germany and France, breaking up in Paris the inevitable three years later.

Waters settled there, lionised by French jazz fans. He featured in a documentary film *Premier Festival Européen de Jazz* (1954) with Coleman, Mezz Mezzrow, Humphrey Lyttelton and Beryl Bryden. He worked in the club La Cigale throughout the Sixties and toured Europe relentlessly throughout the Seventies and Eighties. He also made short visits to play in New York during this time. His autobiography, *The Key to a Jazz Life*, was published in 1985. Waters stayed in France until 1992 when he returned to the United States.

He continued to work and tour with a band called the Statesmen of Jazz that included the 90-year-old violinist Claude Williams and jazz stars less well-

stricken in years in Clark Terry, Buddy Tate, Al Grey, Milt Hinton and Panama Francis. Waters appeared on national television three times and played at two New York jazz clubs during 1997. He also made a 10-week tour of Paris and Germany and in September, with the Statesmen of Jazz, made his first tour of Japan. He celebrated his 90th birthday earlier this year at the beginning of a three-night booking at the Jazz Standard club in New York.

Steve Voce

Benjamin Waters, saxophonist: born Brighton, Maryland 23 January 1902; married; died Columbia, Maryland 11 August 1998.



London in the war: not devastated

and that women, children, old people, shop assistants and bank clerks were generally incapable of sustained courage.

In many ways, civilians had an advantage over soldiers in coping with bombs. If they felt afraid, they could seek safety in shelters or in the countryside without being condemned as shirkers or shot as deserters. Those who stayed in London, like those who did, did so of their own free choice. The chances of death or injury were not very high. The vastness of London, which pre-war experts had

believed would intensify the effects of air raids, in fact ameliorated them. Raids and casualties were scattered over a very wide area, and although the cumulative destruction in London was great, Londoners never felt as those in heavily bombed provincial cities might have felt that they were living in a devastated or defeated city.

Mass Observation records show that Londoners were strengthened by a sense of individual value, common purpose and historic destiny. The myth, the pre-written story, was a tale of mass hysteria and headlong flight. Londoners had been told that this is what they would do often enough in the 1930s, but for their own reasons they behaved altogether differently, and the story had to be changed in recognition of this surprising fact. It is not time yet to change it back.

Stephen Inwood is the author of *A History of London*, to be published on 1 September (Macmillan, £30).

HISTORICAL NOTES

STEPHEN INWOOD

Propaganda and the London Blitz

IT IS the job of historians to re-examine traditional assumptions about the past, and to test them (sometimes to destruction) by means of rigorous modern scholarship. Sometimes, however, this process creates a new orthodoxy which is less truthful than the one it displaces.

Take the story of Londoners' reaction to the Blitz of 1940-41. The traditional view was that Londoners faced unprecedented danger with remarkable courage and composure. The new view, loosely based on Angus Calder's *The Myth of the Blitz* (1991), seems to be that the story of London's courage was scripted, filmed and virtually invented by wartime

propagandists for domestic and American consumption, and that post-war

generations have mistaken a propaganda myth for historical truth. If Londoners behaved courageously, Calder's dust jacket claimed, this was because "people performed, by and large, as their own 'myth' told them they should".

It is worth repeating that some stories, even those upon which patriotic "myths" are based, are true. The attitudes and behaviour of Londoners during the Blitz were recorded, reported and analysed in unprecedented and honest detail by Mass Observation and the Home Intelligence division of the Ministry of Information. Secret and well-researched reports, produced daily from 18 May 1940 and weekly from 30 September, presented an unequivocal picture of steadiness and pragmatism in the period of heaviest raids, at a time when the Government was on the alert for signs of hysteria, and expecting a breakdown in civilian morale. After a brief panic, an oddly humdrum attitude to danger developed. Risks and privations which once would have seemed intolerable were soon being treated with the irritation or glum resignation induced in normal times by a cancelled train.

In retrospect, the resilience of

Londoners in 1940-41 was not unbelievable, and it was certainly not unique. The citizens of Berlin, Hamburg, Tokyo, and even Nagasaki showed similar endurance in the face of greater devastation later in the war. Londoners were simply the first to demonstrate the error of the pre-war belief that only soldiers (and only men) could accustom themselves to danger and death,

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

SYNGE: On 17 July, at home, to Sue and John, a son, Alexander Elliott William, a brother for Robbie and Frances.

van't HOF: to William and Angela, a daughter, Sophie Alexandra, on 5 August.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Marion Carlisle, "Chests (ii): di Cione, *The Resurrection and The Three Maries at the Sepulchre*", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Frances Rankine, "A Collector's View: the Chancy Hare Townshend Bequest of 19th-century pictures", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Eric Shanes, "David Smith, the Greatest Post-war Sculptor?", 1pm.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding and anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £5.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

BIRTHDAYS

Miss Sarah Brightman, soprano, 37; Mr Ronald Campbell MP, 55; Mr David Crosby, singer, 57; Mrs Jennifer d'Abu, president, Moyes Stevens Investments, 53; Vice-Admiral John Dunt, Chief of Fleet Support, 54; Mr Buddy Greco, jazz pianist and singer, 72; Mr David Hopkinson, former chairman, Harrison and Crossfield, 72; Dom Anthony Philip Jebb, former Headmaster, Dowsdale School, 66; Professor Sir Andrew Kay, surgeon, 82; Sir Stuart McKimmion, High Court judge, 60; Sir Robin McLaren, former ambassador to China, 64; Mr Steve Martin, actor and comedian, 53; Lord Mishcon, solicitor, 83; Dr Oliver Neville, consultant to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, 69; Mr Frederic Raphael, novelist, 67; Mr Tony Scanlon, actor, 53; Sir Ronald Stewart, former chairman, London Brick Co, 95; The Right Rev Hewlett Thompson, Bishop of Exeter, 69; Lord Whaddon, former MP, chairman, Cambridge Chemical Co, 71; Mr Sydney Wooderson, athlete, 84.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Fra Paolo Sarpi (Paulus Venetus), scholar and philosopher, 1552; Dr Florence Estienne Meric Casaubon, classical scholar, 1599; Claude-Joseph Vernet, painter, 1714; Dr Charles Hutton, mathematician, 1737; Friedrich Ludwig Duhn, dentist and composer, 1769; Letitia Elizabeth Landon, writer, 1802; Samuel Sebastian Wesley, composer, 1810; Sir Walter Besant, novelist and philanthropist, 1832; Baron Richard von Kraft-Ebing, physician, 1840; Briton Rivière, artist, 1840; Henry Duff Trail, writer, 1842; Bion Arnold, electrical engineer, 1861; John Galsworthy, novelist and playwright, 1867.

Deaths: Augustus Montague Toplady, hymn-writer and author of "Rock of Ages", 1778; John William Fletcher, evangelist, 1785; Thomas Sheridan, actor, biographer and lexicographer, 1788; George Colman (the elder), playwright, 1794; Luigi Cagnola, architect, 1833; Johann Friedrich Herbart, philosopher, 1841; The Rev Henry Francis Cary, translator of Dante, 1844; William Buckland, Dean of Westminster and geologist, 1856; George Combe, phrenologist, 1858; Admiral David (James) Glasgow Farquhar, naval officer, 1870; Richard Jefferies, naturalist and essayist, 1887; Alfred Charles William Harmsworth, first Viscount Northcliffe, newspaper proprietor, 1922; Sir Landon Ronald, composer and pianist, 1932; William Randolph Hearst, newspaper proprietor, 1951; Bertolt Brecht, writer, 1956; Henri-Edouard-Prosper Breuil, priest and archaeologist, 1961; Clifford Odets, playwright, 1963; Leonard Stidley Woolf, publisher, 1969; Juliet Romains (Louis Farigoule), novelist, playwright and poet, 1972; Oscar Levant, composer and pianist, 1972; John Boynton Priestley, novelist and playwright, 1984.

On this day: the Portuguese defeated the Castilians at the Battle of Aljubarrota, 1385; the French repulsed William of Orange at the Battle of Mons, 1678; Tristan de Cunha was annexed to Great Britain, 1816; Cologne Cathedral, started in 1248, was completed, 1880; Cetewayo, the Zulu chief, was received by Queen Victoria at Osborne, 1882; the landing of 2,000 US Marines helped to capture Peking, thus ending the Boxer uprising, 1900; the steamer *Islander*, carrying \$3m in gold, struck an iceberg off Alaska and sank, with the loss of 70 lives, 1901; the British transport *Royal Edward* was sunk by a Ger-

man U-boat in the Aegean, with the loss of 1,000 lives, 1915; the Little Entente between Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia was formed, 1920; the VIIIth Olympic Games opened in Antwerp, 1920; the BBC showed its first feature film on television, *The Student of Prague*, with Anton Walbrook, 1938; the Atlantic Charter was enunciated by Churchill and Roosevelt, 1941; Japan surrendered to the Allies unconditionally, 1945; following rioting, British troops were moved to Northern Ireland to restore order, 1969; after peace talks in Cyprus broke down, Turkish troops launched an attack on Nicosia, 1974.

Today is the Feast Day of St Athanasius of Aegina, St Eusebius of Rome, St Fachanus, St Marcellus of Apamea, St Maximilian Kolbe.

RECEPTIONS

British Safety Council Sir Neville Purvis, Director General of the British Safety Council, was the host at a reception held yesterday at the Armourers' Hall, London EC2, for the International Diploma in Health and Safety Management System Audit awards. Mr Alan Smith, Chairman of the Nigerian High Commission, and Mr Almuslemi Tala, of the Saudi Arabian Embassy, presented the awards. Mr Alan Smith, Chairman of the Board of Governors, British Safety Council, and Mr Tim Hooper, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Governors, also attended.

ADJUDICATOR FOR HATTON CROSS INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

The following have been elected fellows of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers:

Mr P. Atherton, Horsham; Professor G. Bergoles, Greece; Mr Chan Po Keung, Hong Kong; Mr D. Collier, Bishopsgate; Mr S.R. Darsden, Farnham; Dr A.R. Davies, Chelmsford; Mr D. Dargatz, Derby; Mr D. Eddy, Chelmsford; Mr C.P. Edwards, Farnham; Mr D.C. Edwards, Farnham; Mr S.C. Gordis, Chelmsford.

Mr R.W. Harding, London; Mr D. Holland, Newbury; Mr C.D. C. Kilgash, Chester; Professor A.J. Keenan, Reading; Mr K. Kew, York; Mr K. King, Merton; Mr Law, London; Mr A.J. Morris, Manchester; Mr J.A. Murphy, Cheshire; Mr J.A. Napier, Chelmsford; Mr D.S. D. Dobie, Winchester; Mr M.L. Overall, Newry; Mr V. Ramsay, India; Dr A.C. Rolfe, Abingdon; Mrs S.M. S. Ross, Chelmsford; Mr D. P. Stacey, Bristol; Mr Ian Bow Joop, Malaysia; Lt-Col D.R. Thorpe, Bristol; Dr D. Tong, Kwok Wei, Hong Kong; Mr K.C.P. Yiu, Surrey; Dr Iain Macmillan, Wellington; Mr Wong Kin Keung, Hong Kong.

Yesterday, 13 August, the Law Lords gave their reasoned judgment. One of them protested against the media, saying that the case cried out for a sense of proportion and that the media had not shown it. All agreed, however, that there was a question of balance. That is, of balancing two conflicting interests. On the one side of the scale there was the security of the state. Lord Templeman, for the majority, declared that:

It is the duty of this House in its judicial capacity to stand firm in order to prevent harm to the security service, to preserve the right and duty of the court to uphold within the jurisdiction secrecy of the security service when necessary.

On the other side of the scale there was the freedom of the press. Lord Bridge of Harwich, for the minority, declared that the key question was

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

The following have been appointed to fellowship of Nuffield College, Oxford:

Official Fellowships: Professor Alec Stone Sweet, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of California, Irvine.

Visiting Fellowships: Dr David Potter, Department of History, Princeton.

Prize Research Fellowships: Ms Lucy White, Nuffield College.

Non-Subsidized Research Fellowships: Mr David Myatt, Nuffield College.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following: Sabbath begins in London at 8.11pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-243 3999; Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2265; Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-289 6600; Reform Synagogue: 0171-249 4761; Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2572; New London Synagogue (Masorti):

Freedom that tips the scales of justice

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

14 AUGUST 1987

The Law Lords have approved by 3-2 the ban on coverage of Peter Wright's book 'Spycatcher'. A former Master of the Rolls dissenters

and an exercise, of which he said:

I detect no error in his approach and I would be content to decide this appeal on the simple ground that the conclusion at which he arrived was a proper exercise of the discretion with which he as the judge of first instance was invested and one with which an appellant court ought not to interfere.

Both Lord Bridge and Lord Oliver pointed out the danger which the majority decision involved. Lord Bridge said, "Freedom of speech is always the first casualty under a totalitarian regime... This is a significant step down that very dangerous road." Lord Oliver added that it involved the first step along a very perilous path.

Lord Bridge concluded his judgment, saying emphatically of the majority: "I remain in profound disagreement with you." So will many others who read the judgment. I would add this thought: if the Attorney-General prosecutes any of the newspapers for contempt, what is a judge of first instance to do? Is he to accept the majority judgment as correct and impose a heavy penalty, or is he to say: "There is so much difference of opinion on the matter that I will treat you leniently?"

This is my concluding point. The Lords ought not to have reversed the Vice-Chancellor, who refused an injunction, unless they had been unanimous. Change the constitution by one and the result might well have been different. No injunction should be granted in the face of such powerful dissent.

Lord Denning

From the Home News pages of 'The Independent', Friday 14 August 1987

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
tokoloshe, n.

tells us, a mischievous and lascivious hairy dwarf of African mythology. More detailed sources mention that superstitious women raise their beds on bricks

Stalin's little prisoner

What was a British schoolgirl doing in Soviet Moscow, and why was she sent to a labour camp? By John Morrish

When Rosa Thornton tells her grandchildren about her younger days, they must find it difficult to believe their ears. Few British children went to school in Moscow alongside the offspring of Mao, Tito and the international revolutionary élite. Fewer still found themselves shipped off to Kazakhstan at the age of 16 to shovel copper ore for 14 hours a day, seven days a week.

More incredible, though, in today's post-ideological, soft-hearted Britain, is how Rosa came to be in Moscow in the first place - and how she came to be left there.

Rosa Rust was born in 1925, the daughter of William Rust, a devoted British Communist, and his wife, Kathleen. She was named, of course, after the German communist revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg.

Rosa took her first steps across the table in a prison visiting-room, where Bill Rust was one of 12 prominent British Communists held for sedition at the time of the General Strike. He was, her mother told her, more interested in news of the class struggle than in Rosa's battle with gravity.

In 1928, Rust was summoned to Moscow to work for Comintern, the Communist International, and took with him his wife and three-year-old daughter. There he became a popular figure, not least for his propensity to denounce his backsliding British comrades.

"He had a lot of admirers," says Rosa, who still speaks with a pronounced Russian accent. "My mother was just his wife." The marriage was doomed, and with her mother also swept up in the expatriate revolutionary scene, Rosa was left to her own devices. She had spoken Russian from the beginning, having learned it during a fortnight in a Moscow isolation hospital.

Soon, she was wandering the streets, or trailing the city's gypsies. This was not acceptable behaviour for a child of the ruling élite. In 1930, Rust was sent back to London to edit the new *Daily Worker*. Before he left, he secured her a place in what she calls "a specialised children's home for foreigners".

The Politburo had decided to establish the special boarding school in Ivanovka Niskienz, a textile town outside Moscow, for the children of "fighters against Fascism" and Communist revolutionaries, many of whom were living hazardous underground lives in their own countries. Among them, Rosa remembers particularly Tito's son, Jakov. "He was a horrible boy," she says. "I hated him."

Rosa remembers particularly Tito's son, Jakov.

'He was a horrible boy,' she recalls.

'I hated him.'

Bill Rust, meanwhile, had been faithfully praising Soviet society, apparently unaware of his daughter's sufferings. He had also remarried. According to Mark Burman, a radio producer who has come to know Rosa well through making a documentary about her, Rust had never told anyone in London about Rosa's existence. "I don't think he was properly divorced and the Communist Party was all very proper at that time," he says. There was no happy reunion.

Burman's documentary ends with father and mother coming to meet Rosa at King's Cross station, and failing to recognise her. After that, says Rosa, she met her father occasionally, but they did not speak of serious things, particularly not her experiences in the Soviet Union. The story of her time there, says Burman, "conflicted with everything he believed in".

Instead, she lived with her mother, learned English at Regent's Street Polytechnic, and was taught to tap-dance by her newly-found cousins. Later, she got a job as a telephone operator and receptionist with *Soviet Weekly*, translating instructions from the Russian embassy to her British editor. Then she worked for Tass, the Soviet news agency, translating and typing out news reports from Moscow Radio, until it was closed down by the Foreign Office as the Cold War began in earnest.

In 1949 she had married George Thornton, a student of Polish. Her father had died the year before, so she was given away by Harry Pollitt, the leader of Britain's Communists during the Second World War. The singer Paul Robeson appears in the wedding photographs. Such people were her only family. She says now that all her life she has shunned "three things: politics, religion and nationalism".

Today Rosa is 73. Next year, she and George celebrate their golden wedding. They enjoy classical music and pottering around, sometimes with their four children and five grandchildren. With a background such as hers, her most revolutionary act may well have been to live an ordinary life.

"It always appealed to people that it was exciting and exotic," she says, of her early years. "It wasn't exciting and exotic at all. It was a question of survival. I am all for the peaceful life."

Rosa Rust is broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on Saturday at 2.30pm

NEW YORK CONFIDENTIAL

Sorry, but Britannia is not so cool in New York

ON SEPTEMBER 8, Tony Blair is to attend a party in New York to celebrate the "British Invasion Part II". According to the invitation, "The party will celebrate Cool Britannia and the major influence London is having on the world of fashion, art and music." Among other highlights, the party will include "a re-creation of the famous Met Bar".

Has Blair completely lost his mind? His attempts to associate himself with Cool Britannia have already made him look like an eager young vicar getting down to the local disco. The prospect of his dancing the night away in an imitation of the Met Bar in New York will surely have William Hague rubbing his hands with glee.

More important, doesn't Blair realise that the whole Cool Britannia phenomenon is now completely passe? I helped *Vanity Fair* put together a special issue on Cool Britannia in November 1996. By the time that issue came out in March 1997, people were already tiring of the subject.

These days it brings most people out in hives. What's Blair going to be celebrating next - rave culture?

The party is being organised by Liz Tilberis, the editor of *Harper's Bazaar* and Trudie Styler, whose claim to fame, apart from being Sting's wife, is that she often makes the "worst dressed" list. The guest list includes the usual suspects - Alexander McQueen, Stella McCartney, Philip Treacy and a bunch of liggers wearing Union Jack T-shirts.

ONE WAY in which American couples celebrate their wedding anniversaries is to hold ceremonies at which they renew their marriage vows. A New York couple has come up with an interesting variation on this theme. To celebrate their 15th anniversary, Alfred Shuman, the managing director of Bear Stearns & Company, and his wife Stephanie, organised a ceremonial burning of their pre-nuptial agreement.

According to *The New York Observer*, they invited 140 friends to gather round a fire in the garden of their East Hampton country house and then threw the legal document into the flames.

Typically, several of the lawyers present pointed out that a pre-nuptial agreement is still binding, even if it has been lost or destroyed. The Shumans' gesture may have been touching but, in the event of their marriage hitting the rocks, it will turn out to have been meaningless.

I'VE BEEN spending the past week crashing and burning with a succession of beautiful girls in New York's hottest singles bars. For the purposes of researching an article for a new American men's magazine called *Gear*, I've been trying out various chat-up lines from a book called *How To Pick Up Girls*, by Eric Weber. The book was written in 1970 and was out of date even then.

For instance, one of the recommended lines is, "You're the

second prettiest girl in the world." "Naturally," writes Weber, "she'll want to know who the prettiest is." I tried this out on a girl in a bar called Clementine on Fifth Avenue and she said, "Thank you," and almost ran to the other side of the room. So far, I've struck out on every single occasion.

The point of my article is to try

to discover whether having hair makes any difference to a man's ability to pick up women. As you can see from my photo, I'm a William Hague lookalike.

Over the next few days I'm going back to the same bars, where I'll be using the same lines on some more girls, only this time I'll be wearing a wig. It's a huge great mop of blond hair, making me look like Stuaggy from *Scooby Doo*. But I don't suppose I'll have any more luck, because the lines I'm using are so awful.

EVEN THOUGH it's August, a number of magazines are holding parties at various New York clubs. The other day, *Manhattan File* magazine held a relaunch party at a bar called Lot 61, and I was lucky enough to be invited. One of the big shots there was James Truman, a former *Fuse* journalist, now the editorial director of *Condé Nast*. In the New York media, how this seemingly nice man

about the late socialist Jerry Zipkin. About five years ago he was in a booth at a fashionable restaurant talking about the famous homosexual walker, who was seated nearby, when his companion warned him that Zipkin was a notorious lip-reader.

My colleague was worried that Truman, too, might have mastered this black art.

TOBY YOUNG

Has Blair completely lost his mind? What's he going to be celebrating next - rave culture?



Tony Blair: an eager young vicar trying to impress

itness

A slice of the action

Continued from page 1
HE WASN'T the first innocent bystander to get caught up in the killing, and he won't be the last.

Last January Davinia Brown was out celebrating her 16th birthday with some school friends. At a city-centre cafe they ran into a couple of lads who invited them to a party. When they arrived by minicab at Laindon Road in Longsight, a lone youth stepped from the shadows and opened fire with an automatic machine-pistol.

He wasn't strong enough to handle his sophisticated weapon and the shots were scattered wildly off target. More than 20 rounds peppered the cab and the gable end of a nearby house. Davinia was hit in the head. Despite taking a bullet in his leg, the taxi driver was able to drive her at high speed to a local hospital. After extensive brain surgery, against all the odds she survived.

Although Longsight is not geographically far removed from the old gang turf, it was until recently a relatively trouble-free area. That was until Orville Bell, a 18-year-old Longsight boy, was shot dead in his sports car during a robbery. The tit-for-tat drive-by and ambushes during the last two years have claimed the lives of several and wounded too many to record. The designer weapon of choice is the 1,000-round-a-minute Ingram Mac10, a close-quarters machine-pistol made for special forces. Residents live in fear of their lives. They cannot drive too fast or too slow or wear their hoods up in the rain, lest nervous, trigger-happy neighbourhood boys mistake them for the enemy.

Longsight has been split right down the middle, along traditional Moss Side gang lines. Old Trafford and Whalley Range have long been similarly split. Stretford is going the same way. Meanwhile, gangs from Salford have stretched out into Wythenshawe, where the number of violent incidents involving firearms has leapt up.

Manchester reportedly has more routine armed police patrols per capita than anywhere else in Britain, bar - obviously - Ulster. But morale is not good. A Home Office report last year noted that the force had the third-highest rate of retirement for reasons of ill health. At one time it was 115 officers below strength, because of illness and absenteeism.

After years of watching their peers getting away with murder the new breed of gangsters, like Malcolm, know that the only way to get respect is to pull a gun at the drop of a hat. Whereas in the past warnings were issued and beatings doled out, today they shoot only to kill. Increasingly they're armed at all times. The new breed are fearless.

In May a teenager was visiting two fellow gang members who were on remand at Strangeways for attempted murder. At lunch time, and in full view of very obvious security cameras, members of a rival faction confronted him. Armed with knives and screwdrivers, they chased him back into the visitors' centre. The teenager took refuge with prison officers. Days later the youth was leaving a police station under police guard when rivals ambushed him. Two masked men fired shots. Officers dived for cover and a stray bullet smashed a window, narrowly missing a detective.

No matter how much gang politics and street fashions change, one thing remains omnipresent: the culture of silence and intimidation. Despite employing ever more sophisticated ballistic techniques, police face an uphill battle to put gangsters away. Even if Louis Makin's attackers are caught, it'll be a courageous person who points the finger and identifies them.

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A slice of the action

Witness to the early universe

The Hubble Space Telescope is to be superseded by something even more powerful. By Alexander Hellemans

WHEN GALILEO directed his small telescope towards the sky in 1610, his observations changed our view of the universe for ever. Today anyone with good binoculars can see what Galileo saw: Venus displays phases just like the Moon, and the stars remain like points of light rather than the discs of the planets. The stars, to appear as points, had to be much farther away than the planets, showing that the universe was a far bigger place than anybody had believed before. Galileo showed that the Earth was not the centre of the universe, but rotates around the Sun.

Since Galileo, astronomy has leapt forward whenever a new and more powerful telescope has become available. One of the best examples was when the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) launched in April 1990. Astronomers obtained images showing that areas in the sky that had previously looked blank are in fact filled with thousands of distant, very faint galaxies.

Although astronomers plan to use the HST until the year 2010, the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa), and the European Space Agency (ESA) are already planning Hubble's successor, the Next Generation Space Telescope (NGST). Since it will be much more powerful, astronomers expect the instrument to open up a new window of discovery. "It will see the first significant burst of star formation in the universe," says Gerry Gilmore, an astronomer at Cambridge University who has vast experience of using the HST.

The present plan is to launch the NGST in 2007. Europe has committed itself to contributing \$200m towards the total price of about \$1bn. Although ESA's science programme is short of funds, its readiness to participate is largely based on the extremely good experience over the collaboration with the HST, whereby European astronomers are obtaining more than 20 per cent of total available observation time.

The HST still looks like a conventional telescope - a tube with an opening at one end and a parabolic mirror at the other end - but the design of the NGST will be radically different. It can dispense with the tube, because it will be placed in a point in space much darker than the relatively low orbit of the HST.

It will circle the Sun in an orbit about a million miles wider than that of the Earth, but it will do this at the



The Hubble Space Telescope facing into the centre of the spiral galaxy

same speed as the Earth. The gravitational pull of the Sun and Earth conspire to create a stable spot about a million miles away on the Sun-Earth axis, which will be exploited by the new telescope. The main mirror will also be much larger than that of the HST: current plans call for a diameter of 8 metres - so will be able to gather about 10 times more light than the HST.

The NGST will observe distant celestial objects in visible light, but also infrared light. The human eye cannot detect infrared light, but we can feel it as the warmth of the Sun. Optical mirrors can focus infrared light just as well as visible light. However, the colder a telescope is, the higher the sensitivity of its detectors for infrared light, and therefore the

NGST will be equipped with a heat shield to protect it from the Sun's radiation. This will cool it to a temperature of -243°C (just 30°C above absolute zero).

Infrared light is useful for observing dark objects, such as dust and protoplanetary rings around stars, because of their heat radiation. "Most of these things are typically at room temperature, and most of the energy is coming out at the near infrared, which is exactly where NGST will work well," says Gilmore.

However, astronomers will also need to use infrared light if they want to observe galaxies born shortly after the Big Bang about 12 billion years ago, when the universe began. Since the universe is still expanding, these galaxies are extremely distant

and are moving away from the Earth at tremendous speeds.

Just as the pitch of a train's horn moving away from us at high speed is lowered - a phenomenon known as the Doppler effect - the wavelength of visible light from distant galaxies becomes extended, and so moves into the infrared. Astronomers call this effect "redshift".

The NGST "will see directly the first generation of stars forming; it will see the blue light coming out from them that will be redshifted into the near infrared," says Gilmore. The infrared capabilities of the HST are much more limited.

Because the shift in wavelength is an indicator of velocity, the NGST will also be able to study the rotation of stars and gases around the

nuclei of galaxies. Because these stars move fast, the galaxies are suspected to contain massive, invisible black holes at their centres. The NGST "will probably be best at all at mapping black holes in normal galaxies," says Gilmore. "It will be able to tell us how many black holes there are."

The challenges of placing an 8-metre mirror in space will be daunting. Although the optics are simple and will not require "adaptive" technology - there is no gravity to deform the mirror and no atmosphere to distract arriving light - the mirror will have to be sturdy yet lightweight.

The designers are therefore planning to make the mirror out of beryllium. Current plans give this mirror a

UPDATE

A RESEARCH satellite sent to investigate the Sun that got lost on the way may be salvaged after all, says the European Space Agency. The Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (Soho) had been out of contact with Earth since June, until it began responding to signals again last month. Now it has sent back temperature and electrical data. "At this point we are carefully optimistic," said Bernhard Fleck, Soho project scientist for ESA. Ground controllers are now checking to see which instruments have survived the weeks of freezing temperatures, floating 1.5 million km from Earth. It could be weeks before the team knows whether Soho will be usable.

TWO FOSSILISED dinosaur eggs have been found in southern Bolivia in a site that could turn out to be one of the biggest fossil fields in the world. The fossils are about 88 million years old and were found by the Swiss palaeontologist Christian Mayer. One egg is 40cm long and seems to be from a flying reptile, while the other is about 25cm long. The fossil field is covered in fossil footprints from dozens of species, some apparently from animals up to 350 metres long. If confirmed, it could signal the presence of a previously unknown dinosaur species. Among the tracks were also some from *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

PORTRAITS OF leading scientists from the 17th century to the 20th are to go on public display at the National Portrait Gallery in London. The Royal Society and the gallery have teamed up to produce a "self-guiding trail of discovery, which marries art and science". Among the 20 scientists whose portraits will go on display are Sir Christopher Wren, Sir Isaac Newton, Stephen Hawking and Dorothy Hodgkin, the crystallographer who deciphered the structure of molecules such as insulin and vitamin B12.

TECHNOQUEST

Q How do you make chewing gum?
Chewing gum used to be made from thickened resin and latex from certain kinds of trees, or from various kinds of sweet grasses, leaves, grains and waxes. In ancient Greece mastic gum was chewed, and obtained from the mastic tree. Now the big chewing gum manufacturers make chewing gum synthetically from styrene-butadiene rubber, which is made from a reaction of styrene and butadiene.

Q What are the AHAs cosmetics companies now put in their moisturisers?
AHA stands for alpha hydroxy acid and is supposed to even out skin tone. However, it isn't one specific chemical. It is the general name for acids found in fruit or other foods. For example, glycolic acid (the acid in sour milk) and lactic acid (produced by tired muscles) are AHAs.

Q Why do vegetables go soft when you cook them?
All plants are made up of millions of plant

cells. Each plant cell is surrounded by a very strong cell wall and adjacent cells are held together by a glue. When you eat a raw vegetable or an unripe piece of fruit, your teeth need to break the glued cells apart and this is what gives you that "crunchy" feeling. Ripeening or cooking softens the glue between the cells so that your teeth just slide between the cells.

Q Who invented dinosaur names?
The word dinosaur means "terrible lizard". Individual dinosaur species were named by the scientists who first found them, often in Greek or Latin. They named them after some unusual feature about the animal, where it came from, or even who discovered it. For example, *Baryonyx walkeri* means Walker's heavy claw, because of the discoverer; Bill Walker. *Velociraptor* means "speedy hunter" and *Tyrannosaurus rex* means "king of the reptiles".

Q How strong is an ant?
Ants can carry up to 50 times their own

body weight on their back and their pincers can grip something 1,400 times their weight.

Q How is snake venom produced?
Venom is produced at the back of the snake's head (behind the eyes). Glands similar to those that produce saliva in humans make and store a cocktail of venoms, toxins and enzymes, which travel through ducts to either fangs or grooves in the teeth. The venoms work in different ways: they can paralyse prey (cobra venom affects the nervous system) or digest tissues and organs (this is how rattlesnakes' venom works) which helps them in their food intake.

You can visit the *Technoquest* World Wide Web site at <http://www.sciencenet.org.uk>

Questions and answers are provided by *Science Line's Dial-a-Scientist* on 0345 600444

THE TRUTH ABOUT... PASTEURISATION



WE CAN thank Louis Pasteur (pictured) for inventing the idea of heating something in order to eliminate the harmful bacteria it may harbour. If there was a single moment in the career of the great 19th century microbiologist when he became convinced of the importance of heat treatment, it was when he decided to climb a glacier on Mont Blanc leading a mule carrying 20 glass flasks.

Each sealed flask contained a different "prescriptive" liquid, such as blood, urine, wine or milk. He climbed to 15,000 feet and exposed each briefly to the mountain air, which he deduced would be relatively free of germs. Only one of the liquids subsequently went off - the one that had not previously been heated in its flask.

Pasteur had proven his germ theory of disease and the benefits of heating to get rid of microbes. Today, about 90 per cent of milk is pasteurised, or heated, to eradicate the possibility of its containing dangerous

government spokesman said. "However, the bacterium is the cause of Johne's disease, a disorder in cattle across the world, and is one of several factors that have been suggested as a possible cause of Crohn's disease, a chronic inflammation affecting the intestine in humans."

One of the most deadly micro-organisms that can live in milk is bovine tuberculosis, which killed thousands of children before pasteurisation became widespread in Britain following the 1922 Milk and Dairies Act. In the last century, milk used to be delivered in uncovered pails through dusty streets. It was not uncommon for people to test its freshness by dipping their fingers into the pail to see whether it was warm and therefore "straight from the cow".

Pasteurised milk was in fact introduced into the US in 1893, when the city of New York built its first pasteurisation plant, which was established by Nathan Strauss, an industrialist whose daughter had died of

bovine TB, and who became a passionate advocate of pasteurisation at the many meetings he attended on the subject in Britain.

There are essentially two ways of pasteurising milk. The first is to heat it in batches for 30 minutes at between 62.8°C and 65.6°C. The second is a continuous process known as high-temperature, short-time (HTST), where milk is passed over heat exchangers that can raise its temperature to 71.7°C for about 15 seconds.

Although heating can kill harmful bacteria, it also carries the disadvantage of destroying the colour, taste and nutritional value of the milk. So-called "sterilised milk" (it is not technically sterile), which is heated to about 115°C for 20 minutes, loses many of its vitamins. Ultra-heat-treated (UHT) milk is flash-heated to 135°C for a second and is about as nutritionally valuable as pasteurised milk, but despite this many people find it less palatable than pasteurised milk.

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The poetry of wicker and willow

There is an art as well as a craft to basket-making, and an exhibition of Scottish artefacts proves the point. By Diona Gregory

Baskets have long been the Cinderellas of the crafts world. Unlike pots, jewellery or textiles, they lack a high profile either in smart commercial galleries, or – more crucially – in the minds of most collectors; they are not seen as "proper" works of art. Defined by traditional methods of construction and use, be they domestic or industrial, the simple woven basket struggles to move beyond historical associations and a distinctly utilitarian image.

"Making Weaves: the basket-maker's art", an exhibition of 14 dynamic contemporary Scottish basket-makers, should help change that. It is the inaugural show of the National Museums of Scotland's new Craft Gallery, which is being unveiled tomorrow. For juxtaposed with baskets for logs, shopping and the like are more mysterious woven objects that push at the boundaries of what many would term a basket.

With its start-up costs funded by the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Funds, the Craft Gallery's remit is to exhibit and promote contemporary craft in Scotland. "What Making Weaves has done is give people the opportunity to work towards specific pieces for an exhibition which they would otherwise not make," says Valerie Morris, the gallery's curator. "There's work here which could be considered experimental: experimental for the makers but also experimental for the audience who are going to view the baskets."

Take Valerie Pragnell's "Red Earth Pod Series" in the main foyer, leading in to the gallery, which throws down the gauntlet and challenges us to reassess our perceptions of what baskets are. Earthed in sand, the three roughly woven, asymmetric pods are obviously baskets but serve no discernible function. The swollen willow structures, plastered externally with red soil from the Borders, are coated inside with a pale mulch of paper and flax straw. For me they evoke the harsh landscape and way of life of the Australian outback.

Her "Wild Apple Basket" and "Blackthorn Basket" are both lacquered internally with purple-black Japanese paper. Smaller than the "Pod Series" and more regularly woven, they exude modernity, yet remain tied to the earth – without being in any conventional sense "organic" or "green".

Unusually for someone working in willow, Pragnell describes herself as a sculptor. Most people insist on the term "basket-maker" – emphasising the process and materials used over sculpture's focus on form and content.

The traditions of the craft are



Main picture: 'Alder Pods', by Valerie Pragnell; below from left: 'Basket' by Sally McIntosh, 'Shell' by Anna A King, and 'Willow and Birch Ball' by Lizzie Farey



still attached. They are crazily interwoven, airy or densely in non-geometric patterns. But their exuberant, energetic forms all grow from bases constructed in exactly the same way as those for everyday shopping baskets.

In contrast to Pragnell's and Farey's large forms, Anna King's baskets are small enough to nestle in your hand. She sees her baskets as containers for ideas and secrets, and uses traditional coiling techniques with natural materials to create fantastically frivolous containers. "Hidey Hole" is made of coiled sisal stitched with raw linen thread, and decorated with downy feathers the colour of oatmeal. From around its narrow neck wave ethereal strands of horsehair. On another basket, "Hidden", pine needles bristle stiffly to attention around the rim, obscuring what lies within.



Sally McIntosh's "Spiky Baskets" have no obvious function either. Made from coiled and stitched raffia, covered with spiky projections, they resemble overgrown yet fragile chestnut seed-cases, although

their muted heather tones suggest they may have beamed in from outer space.

There is nothing new in the idea of non-utilitarian baskets. For as long as baskets have been made, skilled workers have also made more refined, more highly decorated baskets for ceremonial purposes. What is new is that the making of a basket has become a search for individual expression, completely separate from the endless repetition and predictability that characterised traditional basket-makers.

Aply, Laurence Coupland's gleaming straw kishie is the only basket in the show not made this year and the only purely traditional basket. Kishies, used by crofters for carrying peat, seaweed or shopping on their backs are a classic example of a traditional basket where function dictates form. Coupland has been



making them all his life, as part of the natural rhythm of his crofting life. It is probably the only basket on display where the maker knew exactly how it would look, and be used, before he started weaving. The kishie also typ-

ifies the power of a basket to summon up visions of a way of life unrelated even to the basket-maker.

Valerie Morris hopes that the exhibition will make people re-examine their perception of what a basket is.

"Modern basket-makers in Scotland are reacting to their own inspiration: their own need to express their own individuality, their passion for the material, their passion for the environment they are working in." This contemporary approach does not preclude the making of functional baskets, but it does require a shift in perspective from the viewer, not least in terms of value.

There are other baskets on display which are, at first glance, deeply traditional. Graham Glanville's fruit picker (made from green and Flanders red willow) and round log basket (in buff and green willow), and Trevor Leat's fitched oval shopper (Flanders red and white willow) and fitched wastepaper basket (black maul and white willow) are robust and functional. But the way they combine materials and weaves is anything but "traditional", creating baskets that demand to be categorised as objects of desire rather than as everyday containers.

Leat's and Glanville's respect for their materials is echoed in Lise Bech's zig-zag bowls and ball-shaped vessels – a vivid reminder of the many colours of natural willow. Her stylish baskets borrow shapes from the ceramics world, yet remain faithful to basketry traditions.

The exhibition also makes clear that Scottish basket-makers' admiration for the traditions of their craft still dominates their creative endeavours. Colour and materials are derived from hedgerows and the rural landscape. Unlike their contemporaries work south of the Border, there is little experimentation with applied colour or synthetic materials. However, in exploring their craft, like many British basket-makers, they create beautiful, captivating objects which, for want of a better word, are called baskets.

Making Weaves runs from 15 August to 4 January 1999 at the Royal Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh. Mon, Wed-Sat 10am-5pm, Tues 10-8, Sun 12-5. Adults £3/£1.50, children free (details, 0131-247 4219). This is a selling exhibition; work can also be commissioned from individual makers via the museum. At the Edinburgh Festival, Artisan '98, with 153 arts and crafts makers and a series of free talks, runs 19-23 August at Cramond Hall, Morrison Street, Edinburgh (0131-225 2059). *Threads*, an exhibition of 60 works by 14 contemporary US basket-makers is at the Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, 29 August-30 September, 10am-7.30pm.

A whole new case of knives

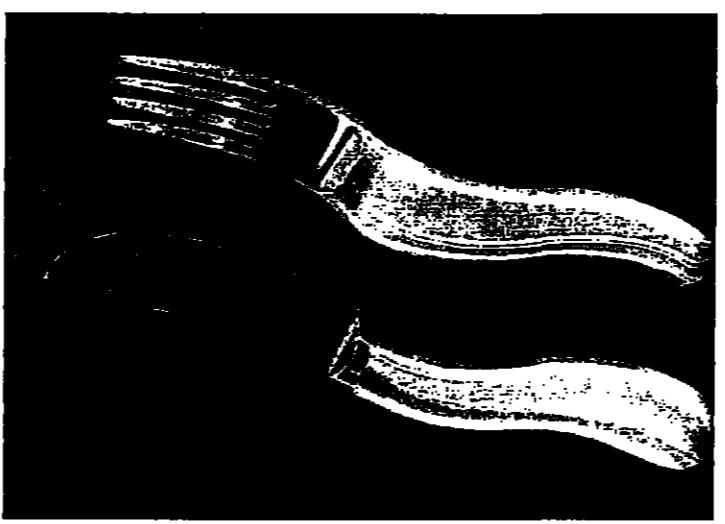
Sheffield's Millennium Canteen is a celebration of the best of British silver design. So dig in. By Margot Coatts

AN EXTRAORDINARY civic commission for modern silver cutlery – probably the largest ever – goes on show this week at Mappin & Webb in Regent Street, London. The company is not the manufacturer but the fortunate host of Sheffield City Council's Millennium Canteen, a roll-fronted cabinet containing the work of 37 leading silversmiths.

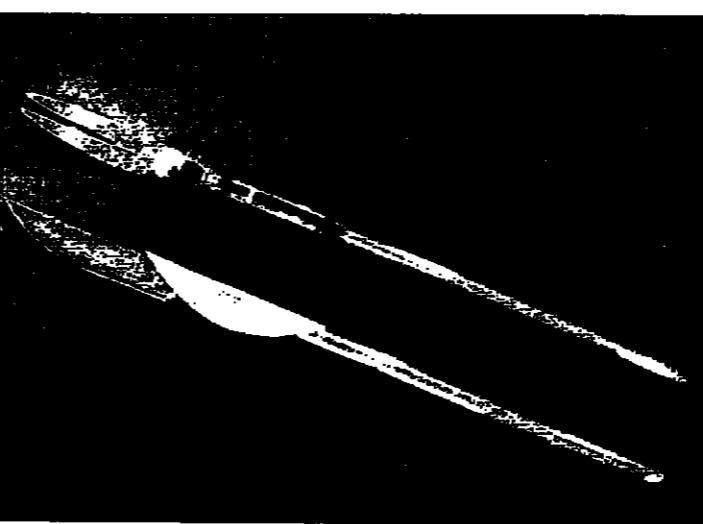
The brief to the silversmiths was open-ended. The only form of instruction came in picking from two hats: the individual makers' names and items of cutlery and matching them together. After preliminary designs and models were reviewed at a meeting in July 1997, each maker received a flat fee of £1,000 and the silver they needed.

The results are spirited: some are advanced, some perilously hard to hold, some ergonomically efficient, some extrovert and others quietly personal in design. They reflect, too, changing international eating habits – the great demand for contemporary silver in the Middle and Far East, along with a world-wide increase in oriental cuisine, has led to the more flexible use of forks.

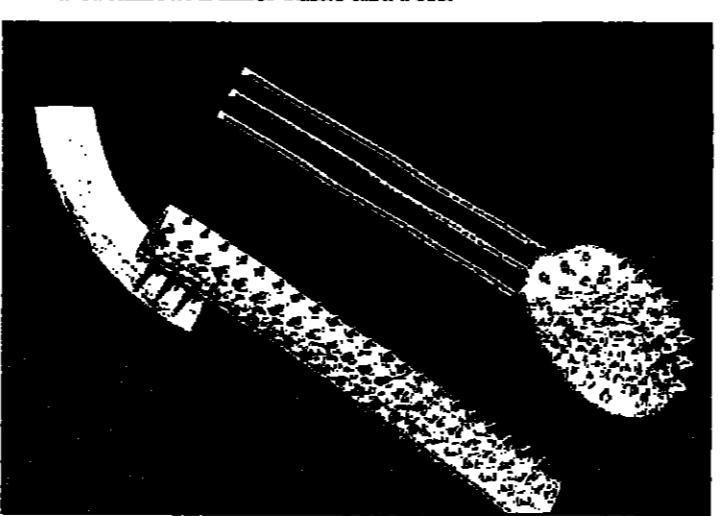
The Millennium Canteen was the brainchild of Sheffield's public arts officer, Paul Swales. It was co-ordinated by the Association of British Designer Silversmiths (ABDS), and supported by the National Lottery.



David Bromilow: Dinner Knife and Fork



Martyn Pugh: Fish Knife and Fork



Chris Knight: Salad Knife and Fork



Julie Chamberlain: Salad Knife and Fork

through the Arts Council of England. Apart from being one of the best studio silver design opportunities around, it must be the only millennium project to have been completed two years in advance of the year it is to celebrate.

The idea first came to Swales when working on a studio project to house 60 artists and craftspeople in Sheffield, during which he met six ABDS silversmiths. Aware that Sheffield is the traditional area for silver and metal industries, and wishing to give a boost to the contemporary craft, they devised the idea of a canteen of mixed cutlery. It is dedicated to Robert the Cutler, mention of whom in 1297 is the first documented evidence of the silver industry in Sheffield.

The cost was a modest £50,000, "which paid for the silversmiths, the case, the catalogue and the Web page," says Swales. Expertise was contributed in kind by the city council; Howard Fenn, chairman of the ABDS, the Master Cutler from the Cutler's Company; the Sheffield Assay Master and Assay office; and Thessko, the bullion company that provided the silver.

The results are spirited: some are advanced, some perilously hard to hold, some ergonomically efficient,

some extrovert and others quietly personal in design. They reflect, too,

changing international eating habits – the great demand for contemporary silver in the Middle and Far

East, along with a world-wide increase in oriental cuisine, has led to the more flexible use of forks.

The most successful pieces fall into two camps: cutlery "pairs" which offer a fresh view of knives and forks, and single utensils. Memorable pairs include the gestural curves of

Then there are single items conceived to stand alone or act as icons of cutlery design in the year 2000. Adrian Hope, from Scotland, has made a carving knife whose embossed silver handle echoes the marbled pattern of its steel blade, hollow-ground and etched; Richard Fox may well have produced the perfect carving fork, with a "stiletto" hollow body made in a new silver alloy.

The most beautiful spoons come from the Islington workshop of Simone ten Hompel, who adds branch-like handles to her endear-

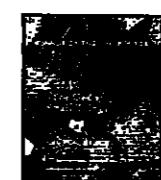
ingly cupped, hand-raised bowls in matt silver. The antithesis is the super-reflective surface favoured by Jeffrey Soraer, from Gillingham, Kent; his work resembles cuttings from a rose bush. At Mappin & Webb, designs inspired by plants, shells and sea creatures have replaced the formal norms; all evidence that silversmithing is growing in some intriguing directions.

head designer Paul Sullivan, is at Mappin & Webb, 170 Regent Street, London W1 (until 29 August; 125 Fenchurch Street, London EC1 (7-11 September); and Guildford (21-26 September). Catalogue £5. Items from the canteen can be commissioned from £300 each. For information call 0171-734 3801 or visit www.shef.ac.uk/schools/cs/sildec/purchase.html

The Silver Show, work by ABDS

members, will be at Leighton House, 12 Holland Park Road, London W14 (0171-603 3316) 2-14 November

LINES ON DESIGNS



In her novel, 'The God of Small Things' (Flamingo, £6.99), Arundhati Roy describes how Estha walks into her twin brother Rahel's room in the family house in Ayemenem in India.

THE ROOM had kept his secrets. It gave nothing away. Not in the disarray of rumpled sheets, or the untidiness of a kick-off shoe, or a wet towel hung over the back of a chair. Or a half-read book. It was like a room in a hospital after the nurse had just been. The floors were clean, the walls white. The cupboard closed. Shoes arranged. The dustbin empty.

The obsessive cleanliness of the room was the only positive sign of volition from Estha. The only faint suggestion that he had, perhaps, some design for life. Just the whisper of an unwillingness to submit on scraps offered by others. On the wall by the window, an iron stood by an ironing board. A pile of folded, crumpled clothes waited to be ironed.

Silence hung in the air like a secret loss.

The terrible ghosts of impossible-to-forget toys clustered on the blades of the ceiling fan. A catapult. A Qantas koala (from Miss Mitten) with loosened button eyes. An inflatable goose (that had been burst with a policeman's cigarette)."

full

In full sail under a glass sky

In the National Maritime Museum, a boat is becoming part of the building. By Nomie Niesewand

All that remains of a grand galleon of a 200-year-old French sailing ship that survived the Battle of Trafalgar is a sliver of the stern. Crash-landed inside the new glazed courtyard at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, HMS *Implacable*, as the Navy renamed the ship after it was captured, looks suspiciously like a bit of Liberty's half-timbered facade pasted on to the Victorian buildings that house the museum. The architect Rick Mather, with the Building Design Partnership, has made a quadrangle in its heart by building a fourth wall, the captain's bridge, and glazing over 11,250 square metres with the largest clear-spanded glass roof in Europe.

This vast indoor marina without any water in it will house a fleet of beached boats when it opens in March next year. Robin Knox Johnson's little yacht, in which he sailed single-handed around the world, is anchored beside rowing-boats and catamarans. Celebrity boats include Prince Frederick's gilded barge, on loan from the Queen, which inspired Handel to write the Water Music; a Greenpeace dinghy that saw action at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific where the French conducted nuclear testing, and the 200-year-old stern of HMS *Implacable*. Seized after Trafalgar, the ship was used to teach sailors until the Navy scuttled it in 1849 off Portsmouth. Pig-iron ballast fell through its bows when the explosives were detonated, and it bobbed about the ocean for days. Now its figurehead of a snake-haired Medusa who turns all who look upon her to stone is fortunately under bubble wraps while Neptune Court is being built.

That glass ceiling, fritted to block 87 per cent of the sunlight, has made the beautifully lit enclosed courtyard that is known as Neptune Court. A network of steel girders made in France by Eiffel stretches like a high-wire safety net below a toughened glass roof that cleaners can walk on. The roof lattice has more struts than technically needed, but the real feat was to free the interior from a lengthy line-up of support pillars for the roof. Rick Mather, who was brought into the project



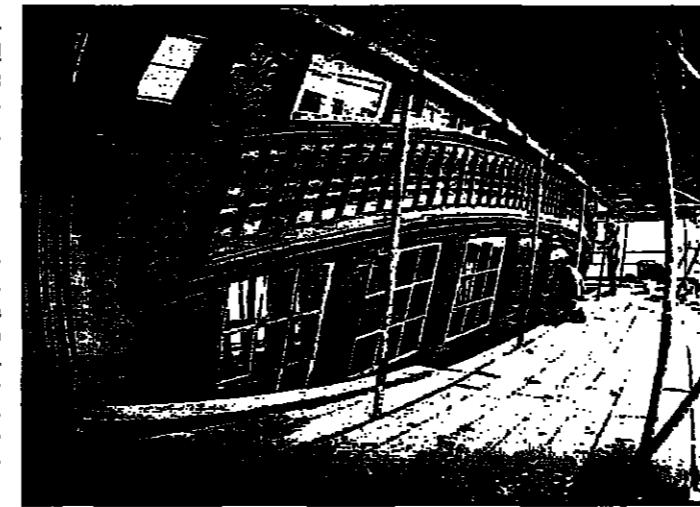
An artist's impression of the view from the Rococo gallery through to Public Entertainments

late on, after the lottery Heritage fund had refused to back a scheme to land the equivalent of a flying saucer in the space, fought to stop those regimented lines of pillars being built inside the courtyard. In

This vast indoor marina without any water in it will house a fleet of beached boats when it opens in March next year

stead he toughened the load-bearing walls by underpinning them. The result is a soaring, uninterrupted space.

Greenwich at zero degrees latitude is where the eyes of the world will focus on the millennium. It's where Great Britain launched herself as a seafaring nation and cracked the problems of navigation. To make sure that it doesn't lose its way in the Millennium Experience, the National Maritime Museum, which already gets half a million visitors each year, is redeveloping its exhibition space. They have more than 750,000 photographs and 4,000 paintings in the world's best collection of seafaring pictures, and they want to tell the story of our maritime history with more displays in 16 new spaces, which are due to open early in 1999. A cube, a sphere and a rectangular tower will house displays on the future of the sea. The Heritage Lottery Fund gave them £12m and they managed to raise a further £5m, mostly from P&O - which is why you'll find cruise liners on exhibition.



The curve of the stern had to be plotted with scaffolding

"Also, they're enjoying a revival in popularity," the museum director, Stephen Riley, points out. Only six months before it opens to the public the National Maritime Museum needs another £2m sponsorship, which is why HMS *Implacable* is taking an early photo-call. Too early -

the ship's remains are still framed in scaffolding.

"Four weeks ago we started assembling the stern on site. I'd hoped to finish it yesterday." Kelvin Thatcher tries to explain the laborious business of restoration. For nearly 50 years *Implacable*'s carvings, decorations and 16 windows in two rows, which were removed by the Navy, have been kept in boxes at the museum. Kelvin Thatcher, a Norfolk maritime conservator and model ship builder (and one-time student of architecture), has been piecing together more than 220 parts like a jigsaw, a far tougher task than making a fiddly model of the *Titanic* for an Alaskan museum.

It took a year to clean the timbers, and then the workers needed to plot the curve of the stern with a scaffolding framework. Originally, copper rivets bolted the columns and windows on to a solid oak frame. Now they are fixed to the wall on a

plywood backing. Just getting the curves right was difficult. Some of the curved timbers, bent in the 18th century when the wood was cut green, had straightened; others went down with the ship and timber technology today can't replicate that kind of bending. Kelvin Thatcher had to make a series of cuts to weaken the timbers to get the curves he needed. Since there is no longer any need for the stern to be watertight or to have any structural strength, this was acceptable.

"It's theatrical, so we had to do what looks right. It's not an exercise in ship-building," Thatcher explains. "I don't know anybody who could build a ship like that these days."

Ship-building has always reflected the architecture of its time, which is why the World Ship Trust preservationist group uses the stern of HMS *Implacable* as its logo above the terse motto, "Implacable Never Again".

Building the future in a boatyard

The Nat West Media Centre at Lord's cricket ground has been assembled out of aluminium modules cast in the Pendennis boatyard at Falmouth. By Nomie Niesewand

When the architect Jan Kaplicky of Future Systems predicts that, in the next century, builders will wear deck shoes rather than gumboots and a hard hat, he is not talking about global warming. He is highlighting a trend to pre-fabricate complicated new building shapes in boatyards.

Organic architecture looks more like pods and shells than the way children draw houses - boxes supporting a pitched roof. Like shells, they have to be load-bearing.

The buzz-word with adventurous architects is *monocoque*, which has previously been applied to aircraft fuselages, car bodies or ship hulls in which nearly all structural loads are carried by the skin.

Not since the *Wonderbra* have so many curves relied upon hidden support. If the trend continues, the props of the construction industry - reinforced steel joists, pillars, posts and columns - will hit the skip, and go the way of whalebone corsets.

"Like an egg" is how Jan Kaplicky describes Future Systems' oval eye of the NatWest Media Centre that appears to hover over Lord's cricket ground. But nowhere near as fragile.

Kaplicky is so convinced that aluminium will be the material of the future that he took a stand at last year's Interbuild to make the point. It is eco-chic too, he believes, and

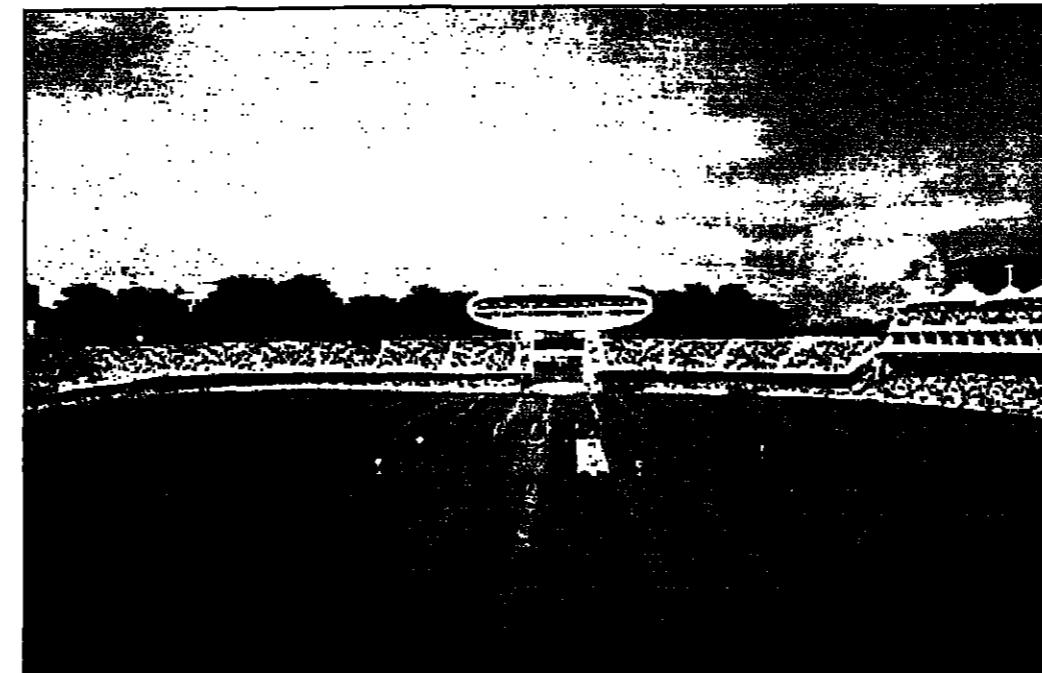
Greenpeace is not challenging him. "It uses night-rate electricity when it's made, can be recycled in a second smelting and has three times the shelf life of steel because it doesn't rust underneath paint the way that your car does. Half the weight of steel means that it uses less raw materials."

He calls the Media Centre a semi-monocoque building because semi-ribs support the aluminium sheets lined with fireproof slab of a different density to protect the building for up to an hour.

Fireproofing aluminium was a first for the boatyard and for the structural engineers Ove Arup who devised it. The whole building is moulded in 26 sections in Rotterdam and Falmouth and assembled on site with watertight welding that makes the building seamless. The longest of the 26 pieces is almost 20 metres.

Each of the moulded segments is no wider than three metres - the maximum width for truck transport without police escorts. Future Systems wanted to float the Media Centre belly-up in bits, like a log flume, out of the Pendennis boatyard at Falmouth and berth it at the Thames docks, but it would still have needed road transport.

For such a big building it made little impact on the hallowed grounds of Lord's, far less than bricks and mortar dug into foundations or cantilevered concrete



Lord's cricket ground: new media centre for the world's commentators

cast on site. It appears to hover on top of two concrete stilts that will carry the 220 cricket commentators into the womb-like curvaceous interior.

The entire facade is non-reflective glass, 40 metres of it, so underfloor cooling is critical to cut the greenhouse effect. Carpeting wall to wall when there are no walls, as such, is tricky: where do you stop? The architects talk about the blue

carpet they ran half way up the shell sides as the building's "blue suede shoes" - which says something about their relaxed attitude to furnishing it.

They are most proud of the elevated, unobstructed view of the pitch from the Media Centre which is, after all, its function and the reason for its form, "just like a camera lens reflecting the activity within".

The

silver filter in the glass stops players, all wearing white, from dazzling spectators and the glass is angled within the aluminium pod to slope inwards and cut the glare.

If monocoque architecture isn't to go off half-cock, it needs the technology of the aircraft industry and the shipyards. The skill is in combining the two, which is why Jan Kaplicky has done ground-breaking work.

Now the Catalan architect Enric Miralles wants to get the Scottish Parliament built in a Scottish boatyard using traditional timber technology to shape the upturned hull that forms the roof of the debating chamber.

Only rowing boats are made in timber, which describes his beached boat form. Sailing boats are mostly aluminium or glass-reinforced plastic, though carbon fibre is the preferred material for an America's Cup contender. That old adage that a ship can carry a boat but a boat can't carry a ship explains why shipyards aren't involved in the building boom. Shipyards are all about steel and there is no way that you can bend steel so easily.

Even so, shipyards have lessons for the construction industry. Peter Quartermaine, the author of *Building on the Sea*, points out that any overweight building is wasteful to construct but still functions. In a ship, surplus steel means a daily

penalty in operating costs. "Most ships weigh only one third of a building of comparable size."

The quest for new ways of making things monocoque does not stop at buildings. The architect and Professor of Furniture at the Royal College of Art, Ron Arad, uses the concept in aluminium furniture made in Britain in an aircraft factory.

The Tom Vac aluminium chair, which is a bit like a deflated silver inner-tube pierced with cocktail-stick legs, is vacuum moulded, the same technique used to create aeroplane parts, at Superform in Worcester. The alternative was to invest hundreds of thousands of pounds to make a pressed tool that would produce a chair every two seconds.

Ron Arad, an inventive designer with a low boredom threshold, finds that kind of mass production too much and it would have cost far more. For the 1998 Milan furniture fair he used Superform's cavity forming process to heat aluminium to 500°C and then inflated it with air pressure through steel stencils. Vases and tables blew up in size as if on steroids.

Harnessing cutting-edge technology is what makes British designers world famous. Future Systems have designed the ultimate pre-fab by messsing about with boat designs - and given us more to celebrate at Lord's than the cricket.

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL '98

No sleep, a thousand shows and deep-fried Maltesers

WELL, HERE we go again. Sleepy old Edinburgh fills up with a billion people and a billion quid. The Festival's on again. But which one? Book, Film, Mainstream, Fringe, Tattoo de Tourist? Personally I'll try and fit between them all, though I prefer to watch the Tattoo from a distance! I will be spending most of my time hunkered down at the Fringe festival. And for anyone with a hunger, anyone with a thirst for all that is culturally fringe this year, the beast is definitely in the trough. Bizarrely, the

Fringe has been extended to four weeks, which makes it even more of a test of endurance and survival. Due to the lengthening of the festival I foolishly thought that people would take it easier for the first few days, so that there was something in reserve for the end of the month and the ritualistic howling at the full moon that takes place to mark the end of four weeks of drinking, drug-taking, no sleep, a thousand shows, a thousand dumb reviews and deep-fried Maltesers. Unleash the Beast!

FESTIVAL DIARY

MARK LITTLE

job/art as an alternative comedian as all that more important and dangerous and fun.

One thing that the comedy phenomenon of the last decade has done is to give "theatre" and especially "boring-irrelevant-who-gives-a-shit theatre" a good kick up the arse. And at the fringe this year there is a plethora of "wild, out-there relevant" fringe theatre. The fringe is making news again and possibly exposing the rotten, conservative heart of "Olde Reeke". Shows like *O J Othello*, David Benson's *Nothing but Pleasure* (which has seen him in the news defending his stance on such an important social phenomenon). And horror of censorship horrors, a performer was arrested on the Royal Mile the other day for shouting out "penis". *Obscene*? I think not. Antea Turner butt naked, wrapped around some poor old bloody snake? *Obscene*? I think so.

So, *Viva The Fringe*, with all its bombast and bravery. But I've gotta rush now because I've got to find that fit little French bike bloke.

Once again the Fringe is taking society to task and I'm glad I'm part of it. And I am "stoked" to be able

Two men go mad on Brecht

Last year, trapped in a bathroom. This year, the Right Size asks: what is a human being? Seriously. By David Benedict

"HELLO MRS Spicer ..." OK, not the world's funniest line but that's because you can't see or hear it. Quite same people at last year's festival could be heard imitating Sean Foley's simultaneously wolfish and sheepish delivery of the greeting as he popped, bestrapped, to his corner shop for a pint of milk and an egg, to be blushingly confronted by his local vision of loveliness.

Actually, there was no pint of milk, no egg, nor even a corner shop. But try telling that to the audiences who collectively wet themselves. Foley and his partner-in-crime, Hamish McCall aka The Right Size, attached jumpleads to their audience's imagination in *Do You Come Here Often?* This wildly inventive, no-nonsense assembly of theatrical sophistication, slapstick, warmth, wit and deep silliness was the runaway sensation of the festival and unarguably the finest, funniest comedy ever written about two men trapped in a bathroom.

To universal amazement, they didn't even make the *Perrier* shortlist. "Too theatrical," sniffed the committee. Still, The Right Size had the last laugh, sailing into a smash hit West End season. And now, in my best cinematic "Coming Soon" style, I must tell you: "They're back... and this time it's Brecht."

The guys have gone legit and, what's more, they've teamed up with Kathryn Hunter, best known for her work with *Theatre de Complicite*. "People say, 'so, are you now going into texts?'" frowns McCall, the dark-haired one given to sterner characters. "But no, this is a one-off." "There's the implication that we're going to leave all that juvenile

stuff alone now," adds Foley. Happily, after Edinburgh, a tour and then the Almeida, they're going straight back to the juvenile and writing a series for Channel 4.

Nevertheless, they're relishing working on a finished script - translation by Lee Hall, who wrote the great radio success *Spoonface Steinberg* - thereby relinquishing a degree of responsibility. After 10 years of double-act shows, they still love performing together, but, as Foley growls: "Normally we have to write the bastard, too."

McColl and Foley are at the head of a rather long line of people who, until recently, had never heard of his satirical comedy, *Mr Puntila and His Man Matti*. Hunter had been invited by the Almeida to direct something to celebrate Brecht's centenary and the three of them had talked about working together for years, so she sent them the script. With each Right Size show, they've added a new ingredient from magic and acrobatics to Alice Power's increasingly mad sets, so a collaboration via someone else's script looked perfect for fresh inspiration.

The question that the play poses is: what is a human being? "There's the suggestion that there could be an enormous friendship between my character Puntila and his servant," explains McCall, "but there can't be because of the social structure. I'm a landowner and he's a chauffeur, but in those mad farce moments where that friendship burns through we can really use our double-act skills."

The toughest thing for them, let alone Hunter, is the knife-edge of the size and style of performance. Having them do their Right Size stick-



The Right Size: acrobatics, mad improvisation and Brechtian social theory Hugh Glendinning

Julius Caesar goes to Malawi

THE AFRICAN Julius Caesar opens with the type of boxing show that would make Don King proud. After successfully challenging the Germans, French and English, Julius Caesar defeats the mighty Pompeii to be crowned Emperor of Rome. In the space of 10 minutes, any fears you might have harboured about yet another Shakespearean adaptation disappear.

Set in the beautiful Royal Botanic Gardens, the show combines Malawian dancing and culture with Shakespearean dialogue. And herein lies the secret of the production's

COMEDY

THE AFRICAN
JULIUS CAESAR
THEATRICUM BOTANICUM

lates the subtlety of the production. While virtually every character is lying dead, the triumphant survivors, dressed in modern military uniforms, dance to welcome but also to affirm the new regime. And so, as the actors encourage the audience to join in the celebrations, the moral of the tale dawns on you. Is the new dictator any better than his predecessor? Is there any point in replacing like with like?

Runs until 31 August at the *Theatricum Botanicum* (0131 226 5257). ALEX HAYES

success. As the play unfolds, you find yourself enjoying the original text more than usual. The African dancing scenes serve as reminders that the play, as is the case with many of Shakespeare's works, mirrors the plight of several modern nations. Not least African ones.

The final scene best encapsu-

Charm of moonstruck jester

THIS IS SO like being a kid up here," announces Jason Byrne, breathless and drenched in sweat. And what great toys to play with. You can chase a hapless member of the audience around the entire venue (twice) just because she really would quite like to make use of the facilities. You can tease a twentysomething man for having grey hair; feel a tiny twinge of guilt; give him a huge bear hug; drag him on stage and spin him around. You can make the entire audience pretend to be Superman, arms outstretched, fists clenched. And they'll love it.

THEATRE

JASON BYRNE
CAMPING ON THE MOON
PLEASANCE

This is look-at-me-mum petulance made art form. It's so good natured and exuberant that it would take an icy heart to resist its charms, but so quick to seize on a comic moment that it never feels like wading through lovingly crafted material. If there was any: Byrne's touch is so deft that it all seems improvised.

MARK WILSON

Runs until 31 Aug (0131 556 6550)

Whether it's the telling of his theory of *Rivendell*'s true beginnings (there were some drunken Irish villagers whose fists were too big for their arms to move above their waists) or a barbed one-liner ("Where are you from?") "Edinburgh," "Lazy bastard," there's no mistaking the mark of a court jester for the end of the millennium. And no-one can flirt with an audience using a latex hand on a stick quite like Jason Byrne can.

MARK WILSON

Runs until 31 Aug (0131 556 6550)

11AM

THEATRE
11.30-1.00 A Soldier's Song. One Paratrooper remembers the Falklands. Assembly Rooms (venue 31, 54 George Street (226 2428). Price £8-£10. To 5 Sept (not 16, 17, 26 Aug).

12 NOON

THEATRE
12.30-2.00 Crave. Startlingly elegant new play. Traverse Theatre (venue 15), Cambridge Street (228 1401). Price £8 (£5). To 5 Sept (not 17, 24, 31 Aug).

1PM

THEATRE
1.20-2.50 Shylock. A lucid and passionate evocation of Shakespeare's most controversial creation. Assembly Rooms (venue 31, 54 George Street (226 2428). Price £8 (£5). To 5 Sept (not 16, 18, 28 Aug).

2PM

CHILDREN
2.00-2.55 Rumpelstiltskin. Royal Mile Primary School (venue 58), Canongate. Price £3 (£2.50). 14-15, 17, 22-23 Aug.

3PM

DANCE
3.30-4.30 A Moovin' and a Groovin'. A show of movement, rhythm and rhyme, plus a chance to learn to dance. Graffiti (venue 90), Broughton Street (357 8330). Price £1.50 (£2.50). 14-17, 19-26, 31 Aug.

4PM

COMEDY
4.30-5.30 Ben Moor - My Last Week With Modilia. A gentle tale of boy meets girl in which a cynical twentysomething junior plastic surgeon falls in love with an 88-year-old woman his "anti-Lolita". Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £6 (£5). To 31 Aug (not 18).

5PM

THEATRE
5.00-7.00 Over the Edge. Minimalist plays from Zimbabwe. Demarco European Art Foundation (venue 22), York Lane (556 8409). Price £5 (£3). 14-15, 24-29 Aug.

DAY PLANNER

YOUR HOUR-BY-HOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S BEST AT THE FESTIVAL AND FRINGE



Spiritualized, star of the Flux

7PM

MUSIC
7.40-8.20 Fiddling Around on the Fringe. Some of the Highland's best bagpipers and fiddlers. Randolph Studio (venue 55), Inst. Francois d'Ecosse, 13 Randolph Cres. (225 5366). Price £6 (£4). To 16 Aug.

8PM

MUSIC
8.00-10.00 Spiritualised/Steve Martland (support Ben Neill). Two of the most original contemporary musical sounds. The Queen's Hall (venue 72), Clerk Street (668 2019/668 7776). Price £12.50. Tonight only.

9PM

COMEDY
9.30-10.30 Chris Addison. Straight from touring with Jenny Eclair. Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £8-9 (£7-8). To 31 Aug (not 25).

10PM

THEATRE
10.15-11.15 The League Against Tedium. Insults, megalomaniac pronouncements and riddles from comedy's überstand-up. Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £4. To 31 Aug (not 25).

11PM

CABARET
11.45-1.00 Mika - Ahi Ataahua (Beautiful Fire). Cabaret glitz meets karaoke. Assembly Rooms (venue 3), 54 George Street (226 2428). Price £8.50 (£7.50). To 5 Sept (not 17, 24 Aug, 1 Sept).

12 MIDNIGHT

COMEDY
12.00-3.00 Club Graffiti. Fridays, Midnight. Graffiti, Saturdays, Lizard Lounge. Graffiti (venue 90), corner of Broughton and East London streets (557 8330). Price £3-£7 (£5-6).

Lost in a dark town

COMEDY

KILL THE OLD TORTURE THEIR YOUNG TRAVERSE

DAVID HARROWER'S first play, *Knives in Hens*, premiered in 1995, told the story of a young woman living in a pre-industrial rural community whose descriptive powers and mental horizons were widened by an intense and socially unacceptable relationship with the village miller.

It was so beautifully written and structured that it instantly established the young Glaswegian as a major talent. *Kill the Old Torture Their Young*, a title that apparently came to Harrower while driving on the M8 between Edinburgh and Glasgow, shows a similarly impressive facility for spare, understated dialogue, but it lacks the cohesion and emotional texture that made his debut so gripping.

Although in terms of setting - a present-day Scottish city rather like Edinburgh - it couldn't be more different, the new play suggests a continued interest in questions of perception and description. Robert is a documentary-maker returning home after 10 years, having been commissioned by a TV company to train his lens on his native terrain. But he no longer recognises the streets of his youth - almost all the faces he knew have vanished.

There's the young would-be actor, Darren, who becomes increasingly desperate at the menial jobs he keeps landing. The jetsetting cokehead Rock Singer is so disorientated that his idea of getting directions is to ask first which street he's in, then which city.

The pattern of people looking for points of connection and finding none produces a similar frustrating experience for the audience. We never delve into any of these lives. The documentary is an intangible, abstract commodity - like the city, there's precious little evidence of work in progress.

What takes place on stage is equally evanescent. You wait for ages to get hooked in, until at last it dawns on you that any real meaning is in the pipeline, too. Why it's called what it's called is anyone's guess.

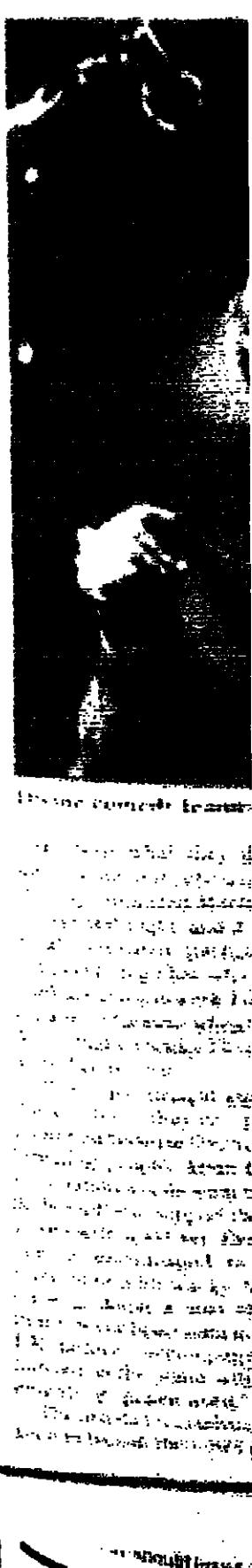
Continues until 5 September (0131 228 1404). A version of this review appeared in yesterday's paper

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

TICKET OFFERS

Pairs of tickets are on offer to the first readers to visit the appropriate box office with a copy of today's *Independent*, subject to availability.

Southside Courtyard (venue 16): 5 pairs, 10pm-10.30pm: *Savage Love*. Inspired interpretation of Sam Shepard's classic play about love opens after sell-out London run. The Pleasance (venue 33): 10 pairs: 4.35pm-5.55pm: *Tomagochi Heaven*. The story of 29-year-old Emily and her relationship with a cyber-pet. Calder's Gilded Balloon (venue 38): 5 pairs for each show, 1pm-3pm: *Flying Machine*, 1pm-3pm: *Flying Machine*, 1pm-3pm: *Cigarettes*. Powerful new play of redemption on Death Row. 5.15pm-6.15pm: *John Butler Drives the Full Monty*.



MUSIC

Spinal Tap at the synagogue

Guns 'N' Moses mix heavy metal and Judaism to create the comic rock of 'Good Lovin' Man From the Holy Land'. But will the rabbis get the joke, let alone the rest of us? By Andrew Mueller

THE INTERFACE between heavy metal and Judaism is one that has, sadly, rarely been explored. It could be argued that most of the members of the absurd glam pantomime dames Kiss had the requisite cultural heritage, but it was never really something they over-emphasised in their work. Dave Cohen, who works nights as the singer and guitarist Axl Rosenberg, feels justified, therefore, in claiming that his band, Guns 'N' Moses, are pioneers, of a sort.

"I can only write about things that interest or engage me," says Cohen, "and being Jewish and heavy metal are two of the big ones. I wouldn't look into it too much deeper than that."

Guns 'N' Moses have existed as a half-formed, occasionally-performing idea for a few years now, and have been appearing more or less regularly on the London comedy circuit in their current line-up for a little more than 12 months. Aside from Cohen's alter ego, Rosenberg, the group's membership includes the former teen star Rabbi Williams, Tel Aviv ("He's the son of the Israeli Secretary of State for Defence, Ariel Bombardment") and the keffiyeh-clad drummer Keith Arafat. Their repertoire is a combination of heavy metal standards reworked from a Jewish perspective, and their own material.

"We do 'Stairway To Heaven' as a Hebrew folk ballad," explains Cohen. "Our own songs are things like 'Synagogue', which is about where we go on a Friday night to let our hair down, and 'Good Lovin' Man from the Holy Land', which is probably the definitive blending of our twin concerns. There is, of course, a long secret history of Jewish influence on heavy metal – you can see it in names like Genesis, Black Sabbath..."

Cohen has been writing and performing comedy for a long time, and



David Cohen, of Guns 'N' Moses: "There's a long history of secret Jewish influence on heavy metal"

his Guns 'N' Moses band-mates all have other musical and creative concerns – Cohen cheerfully admits that the band's primary reason for existing is to fulfil its increasingly middle-aged members' adolescent fantasies of rock stardom ("Oh God, yeah; it's what every comedian wants, really"). That said, he re-

mains acutely aware that, given his band's choice of material, it's not always going to be that simple.

"There are," he says, "aspects of the act that Jewish people will find offensive, but that's because we're not a homogeneous mass of people who all think the same thing.

"Also, despite the obvious thrust

of the act, I'd never want to do a joke that a non-Jewish person wouldn't get, and the same thing applies with the heavy metal – I wouldn't want to do things that most of the audience hasn't heard of. That's also part of the reason we're looking at other genres. We do a bit of country-and-Middle-

Eastern in the act, and we have a disco song, called 'Play That Funky Music Jew Boy'."

Cohen acknowledges the quandary that often affects performers whose source material is their own culture – that audiences can start laughing at them rather than with them – but seems to think he knows

where this particular line is drawn.

"Oh, they're laughing with it," he states. "When your last name is Cohen and you do a stand-up act, people know who you are and what you are straightaway. My rule has always been that if I do a line and it sounds as if people are laughing at it rather than with it, I drop the line."

"It's difficult to say at the moment what space Jewish humour occupies in Britain. It's definitely the mainstream humour in America – *Seinfeld* is the obvious example, but even *Friends*, *Frasier* and *The Simpsons* have a Jewish sensibility, and often you see that the names of the writers are obviously Jewish; and given that American humour inevitably becomes universal, people here are catching up on it. But when I started doing stand-up, there were very few things about being Jewish I could talk about that people understood. We couldn't eat bacon, and our Sabbath was Saturday, but that was about it."

Cohen says Guns 'N' Moses are currently driven less by ambition than by the desire to have a good time, although he is clearly disappointed that a recent proposed tour of Israel fell through. The group do not have a record deal yet and, in fact, have not yet received a single offer of one. The reliability of comedy acts in providing short-term returns for record companies suggests that this will not be the case for long, though Cohen, for his part, is sceptical.

"We'd like to do a record, I suppose," he says. "But it would have to be a fantastically complex concept album, or a live at the Golders Green Hippodrome, kind of thing. We would insist on a gatefold double sleeve. We're very stuck in the early Seventies, and we haven't quite grasped the concept of the CD yet, except in so far as it looks like a bagel."

THE CHARTS

TOP 10 UK SINGLES

TITLE & ARTIST
1 No Matter What Boyzone
2 Mysterious Times Sash! feat Tina Cousins
3 Viva Forever Spice Girls
4 Pure Morning Placebo
5 Ghetto Supastar Pras Michel/ODB/MYA
6 Lost In Space ApolloFourForty
7 Come With Me Puff Daddy/Jimmy Page
8 Needin' You David Morales...
9 Life Is A Flower Axe of Bass
10 Freak Me Another Level

TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

TITLE & ARTIST
1 Talk On Corners The Corrs
2 International Velvet Catatonia
3 Jane McDonald Jane McDonald
4 Postcards From Heaven Lighthouse Family
5 Desirables Eagle-Eyed Cherry
6 Where We Belong Boyzone
7 Blue Simply Red
8 Let's Talk About Love Celine Dion
9 Life Thru A Lens Robbie Williams
10 Version 2.0 Garbage

Breaking the sound barrier

Where is all the modern music in the Edinburgh Festival? The Flux Festival is answering back in maverick style. By Velimir Pavle Ilic

BACK IN Edinburgh for its second year, the Flux Festival which opens tonight looks set to build on the success of last year's event with another set of unique collaborations and rare performances.

It was founded by Alex Poots and David Sefton to bridge the divide between the classically oriented Edinburgh International Festival and the inherent comedy and theatre of the Fringe.

It worked spectacularly well. Last year Poots and Sefton waltzed off with the *Scotland On Sunday* Critics Award For Music for a collaboration between Michael Nyman and The Divine Comedy. This year, Spiritualized and the fated classical composer Steve Martland are scheduled to perform new vocal and conceptual pieces together on the opening two nights.

David Sefton is head of artistic development at the South Bank (following an early stint as a writer for the defunct music tabloid *Sounds*). He says: "I'd go to the Edinburgh Festival every year and see what was going on. They were great on theatre, fine on classical music, but there was absolutely no recognition of contemporary popular music at all. Punters would go for the cabaret and the theatre, but I just thought 'Where's the music? You'd be lucky to get Ray Davies.'

"So that's where it all started... I'm very, very pleased at the bill we've put together for this year's event."

Sefton admits to an admiration for all the artists on this year's roster: it raises the question of how much influence he and Poots have over the general content and structure of the whole event, particularly as they try to encourage the acts to be more adventurous than they would on a normal tour.

"It's enthusiasm that drives what you do," he explains. "We book the acts and then we



Divine comedy teamed with Michael Nyman in 1997

talk about what they do. I went to the first rehearsal of the Spiritualized/Martland project last night, and it was great, fortunately. You have to put people together who you think are going to work. I don't know what happens when they don't – that's a bridge I'll cross when I come to it.

"There are 'straight' gigs in there, but they're programmed because they're interesting people: Asian Dub Foundation will do what they do, but will also support themselves with a DJ set. Everyone is encouraged to do something a bit wacky. Nick Cave is doing a solo show that's never been seen in the UK before, accompanying himself on the piano, with elements of spoken word."

The ensemble played at the Jaffa Cake, a venue with no air conditioning and a stage the size of a handkerchief... we played three shows over two nights, and I can say

without any doubt that they were two of the hottest nights of my life, and two of the most exhilarating.

"The crowded Jaffa Cake only added to the atmosphere – it was an experience I wouldn't have missed."

Sefton says: "The festival context in Edinburgh makes it very clear that this is not just the latest tour by a person or a band, and so it allows the possibility for space and experimentation. They're performing in a place where people expect weird things to happen. For the most part, the artists embrace that and think 'We can go there and take chances'."

One of Sefton's great strengths is his ability to transmit his enthusiasm to others. It comes across as he says: "Spiritualized/Martland is going to be fantastic. Getting John Zorn into the country after he said he'd never come back is great. The Jesus And Mary Chain haven't played in Edinburgh for 10 years, so that's going to be wild. The Delgados and Six By Seven are also playing – The Delgados are one of the best bands in the country, and Six By Seven have made one of the best records of the year. With Nectarine No 9 on the same bill, there will not be a better gig put together in the whole of the UK this year. Last year we did Mogwai, Urusei Yatsura and The Delgados on that triple bill, and it was just an awesome evening."

With PJ Harvey and Nick Cave already sold out, and David Thomas, Yo La Tengo, Roddy Frame and the New York electro-artist Ben Neill also appearing, it promises to be an astonishing two weeks.

The Flux Festival, 14-29 August at the Jaffa Cake and the Queen's Hall. Tickets from the Queen's Hall (0131-665 2019; credit card bookings 0131-667 7776; Fringe booking office 0131-226 5139)

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Mr Love Pants hits his rhythm

Ian Dury and the Blockheads came out of the Essex badlands like a romp in a Cortina. Clever or what?

By Pierre Perrone

IN AN increasingly backward-looking music scene, the occasional reunion gigs played by Ian Dury & The Blockheads (with Madness, for instance) over the last eight years, always offered a chance to dance, party and reflect on the strengths of what the singer still calls "the best English funk band". With Dury's recently diagnosed liver cancer and the release of *Mr Love Pants*, the outfit's first album for 17 years, recent appearances such as last weekend's show-stealer at Paul Weller's Victoria Park concert have taken an extra urgency and added a certain poignancy.

Nostalgia is no longer the only order of the day and this rescheduled Dingwalls performance for media and GLR listeners (the BBC London station recorded the show for future broadcast) was packed to the rafters, with touts outside Camden's finest sweatbox charging up to £10 for a ticket. It was nearly worth that.

A piano rippled by Chas Jankel led The Blockheads into "Wake Up And Make Love With Me" as Ian Dury was escorted to the microphone by his minder. Sporting dark shades and a white tie, the singer launched into the opening *double entendre* ("I come awake with a gift for womankind") and grinned as if taken aback by the warmth of the audience's reception. "Clever Trevor", also from the seminal *New Boots And Panties* album, took things up a notch before the band got a chance to perform some new material in the shape of the football-chant-like "Passing Show".

This established the pattern of the evening. Old faves ("Billericay Dickie", "Spasticus Autisticus") jostled with new songs full of flavour but not quite of the same vintage (though "Jack Shit George" and "Mash It Up Harry" duly took their place in Dury's gallery of cockney rogues). Ian lifted his dark glasses

and mentioned a 1973 Kilburn & The High Roads gig he'd played in the same venue (then positioned in a different corner of Camden Lock). Some of the audience (pop art guru Peter Blake, veteran manager Peter Jenner) even remembered it.

"What A Waste" saw the set lose momentum, Dury struggling with a recalcitrant mike stand before making a brilliant recovery, ad libbing "how many roadies does it take to gaffer-tape a mike?" into the shopping-list lyrics. His stage demeanour conjured up the ghosts of music-hall comedians Max Wall and Max Miller, and gave a slight nod in the direction of Sex Pistol Johnny Rotten who copied his leer and leaning into the mike stance from Dury's pub-rocker days.

Bolstered by drummer Dylan Howe (son of Yes guitarist Steve Howe, replacing the late Charley Charles), but curiously without saxophonist Davey Payne, the Blockheads were as tight as ever, mining a rich jazz-funk seam which perfectly complemented Dury's unique brand of street poetry and rap. A court jester juggling with a rhyming dictionary when he's not switching into alliteration overdrive, that's our Ian.

Still, the group perversely opted not to play the three best tracks (the poignant "You're My Baby", the lush "Honeysuckle Highway", the luscious "Geraldine") from *Mr Love Pants*. Not to worry - all the old faves were there. "Reasons To Be Cheerful Part 3", "Sweet Gene Vincent" and "Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick" building up to a celebratory climax of "Sex and Drugs and Rock'n'Roll". With or without the crutchless knickers (yes, he wore those back in 1977!), deliriously louche, wonderfully entertaining and backed by one of the tightest bands ever, Ian Dury remains a peerless, uniquely British talent to be treasured.



Ian Dury grapples with the mike stand in a classic pose of lean and leer that Sex Pistols Johnny Rotten imitated Andrew Buurman

LYRIC SHEETS

IAN DURY

Ian Dury, author of Billericay Dicky and many other songs, performed with Paul Weller in East London last weekend. His new record is called "Mr Love Pants"

Poem for Ian Dury
Good evening, I'm from Essex
In case we couldn't see
His withered arm and villain's voice
An obvious for Housewives' Choice
In Dagenham maybe

Good evening, I'm from Essex

*In case it passed your noses
A raspberry ripple stole the stage
A gent from the Cortina age
Complete with dashboard roses*

Good evening, I'm from Essex

*Escorted home by way of punk
With minder, Spider Rowe*

Good evening, I'm from Essex

*In case you missed the toasts
He rocks the mic from side to side
Cos ever since Gene Vincent died
The dance halls' full of ghosts*

Good evening, I'm from Essex

In case it sounds plebian

From Brantree down to Walthamstow

The blockheads and the ladies know

His given name is Ian

MARTIN NEWELL

Last record: Stardust's "Music Sounds Better With You"

I think there are rare moments of brilliance every couple of years and this song is one of them. It's great to dance to and really lose yourself in. It kind of reminds me of the hypnotic effect of Crystal Waters' "Gipsy Women" when it first came out. It was bang on the nose until it was played out on every radio station. It's the same with this track. It has all the best elements of dance, hypnotic, simple and there is a degree of emotion that you can lose yourself in. The hooks of it, the things that draw you in, are really easy to remember. It's really uplifting, whether you are going out in the day or in the morning you put it on. I have it on 12". In fact, I bought two copies, because you can mix them together and have great fun.

D-Influence release "Rock With You" August 17 (Echo Records)

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

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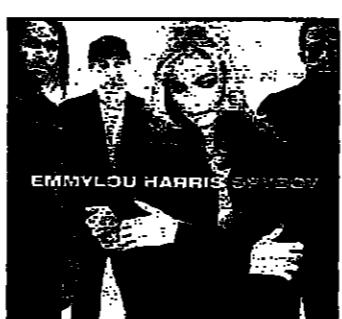
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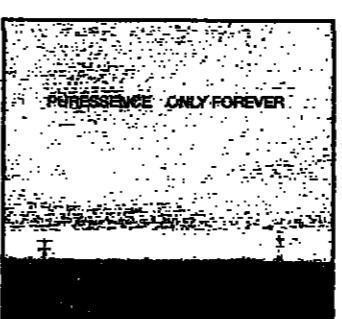
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Black Rock
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ALTHOUGH THERE'S something a little too considered about *theaudience* - the all-black uniform, Sophie Ellis-Bextor's gamine style, the restraint of their perfectly-manicured pop - it's virtually impossible not to be impressed by this debut album, which might well be the final cherry on the Britpop cake. The prime reference-point is clearly Pulp, though Jarvis's constant wrestling with his conscience is rather more revealing than Sophie's superior cool. But guitarist Billy Reeves' cleverly-crafted, laconic lyrics would give anybody a boost of confidence.

The tone of Reeves' songs is signalled by titles like "A Pessimist Is Never Disappointed" and "You Get What You Deserve": these are lyrics which alight on situations and spiral inwards to their core. At times, they can be too arch to be really effective, but even a relative clunker like "Now That You Are 18" includes notions as astrenging as "your dream has become/routine". Less welcome is the navel-gazing that attends "I Got The Whereabout", whose fascination with album review ratings hints at the obsessive insularity which helped bring indie-pop to its present shaky state.

ALTHOUGH THERE'S something a little too considered about *theaudience* - the all-black uniform, Sophie Ellis-Bextor's gamine style, the restraint of their perfectly-manicured pop - it's virtually impossible not to be impressed by this debut album, which might well be the final cherry on the Britpop cake. The prime reference-point is clearly Pulp, though Jarvis's constant wrestling with his conscience is rather more revealing than Sophie's superior cool. But guitarist Billy Reeves' cleverly-crafted, laconic lyrics would give anybody a boost of confidence.

Though there's no obvious link from one track to another, Medeiros seems like a song-cycle: there's a powerful sense of connection running through these eight songs, as if one issue is being worked out in a variety of ways, perhaps over the slow course of a summer holiday. Singer Steve Levesque is from the Neil Young school of weary croaks, while the band's arrangements - methodical, cycling guitars, amorphous keyboard washes, and occasional quiet scralls of synthesiser noise - artfully complement the air of enigmatic ennui. Such lazy brilliance is rare indeed.

NAMED AFTER the all-singing, all-dancing point man of a New Orleans Mardi Gras tribe, whose appearance prefigures the imminent arrival of the tribal procession at the city's annual carnival, *Spyboy* finds silver-haired country queen Emmylou Harris capitalising on the success of 1995's career-reviving *Wrecking Ball*, which won her the following year's Contemporary Folk Grammy.

A live album drawing on all stages of her career, from "Love Hurts" - one of the duets with the late Gram Parsons which prefaced her first solo outing - through to a luminous new version of Daniel Lanois' "The Maker", it showcases both Emmylou's strengths (as singer and as judge of material) and the quicksilver style of her band, now also called *Spyboy*. The work of guitarist Buddy Miller, in particular, is quite dazzling, showering flurries of fast-picked notes across the album with a nerveless nonchalance.

The songs come from reliable sources - Lanois, Parsons, Jesse Winchester, Rodney Crowell, etc - though Harris's own "Boulder To Birmingham", originally from her 1975 debut *Pieces Of The Sky*, remains the equal of anything here.

WHEN *PURESENCE*'S eponymous debut was released in May 1995, it was hopelessly out of step with musical fashion, floundering - for all its tyro confidence - in the wake of the previous year's Oasis/Blur commotion. Since then, Radiohead and The Verve have radically altered the landscape of British pop, replacing rampant laddism with a new depth and seriousness, to the point where *Purerence*'s brand of soaring, soul-baring rock has suddenly acquired a remarkable prescience. Theirs is a sterner, power sound, reminiscent of new-wavers like Wire and The Clash, with James Mudriczki's idiosyncratic, quavering tenor sounding at times uncannily like Love's Arthur Lee.

Mudriczki brings an ambivalent, quizzical awe to songs such as "This Feeling" and "Never Be The Same Again", but his range of vocal moves - the ever-present vibrato and melodic intervals he favours - could be much wider; there were several points on *Only Forever* where I felt I was listening to the same song I had heard a few tracks earlier. Musically, a prevailing grey tone to *Purerence*'s stadium rock belies the apparent passion and ambition of their songs.

WITH LITTLE fuss, guitarist/producer Michael Brook has, over the last few years, become the pre-eminent enabler of world-music crossovers, through rewarding Realworld collaborations with the likes of U Srinivas and (most spectacularly) Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. This time, he's working with the Armenian duduk player Djivan Gasparian, whose 1994 album *Moon Sighes At Night* remains one of the most powerfully emotive releases of recent years.

The *duduk* is a Eurasian wind instrument akin to the flute or *shakuhachi*, though in Gasparian's expert hands, it possesses a deceptively malleable tone, eliding smoothly between notes to lend a heady, seductive sway to the eight pieces which comprise *Black Rock*. Brook, for his part, unerringly locates the inner rhythms of pieces like "To The River" and "Take My Heart" with hand percussion and repetitive guitar figures - no mean feat, considering the *duduk*'s crepuscular timbre, which sometimes seems to just hang suspended in the ether, disappearing into the space between music and mood. The results are quite magical.

THE FRIDAY REVIEW
The Independent 14 August 1998

RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LAST RECORDS BOUGHT BY KWAME KWATEN, MIXER OF BRITISH SOUL BAND D-INFLUENCE

First record: Boomtown Rats' "Rat Trap" FUNNILY ENOUGH, I don't listen to it now, but I would say I still like it. The original thing that attracted me to it was the energy of the track, the way it had so many different sections and its length. I remember being frightened about buying it because they were part of the punk Post-Modern scene, so it was a bit of an odd thing for a young black guy to buy. I listened to it round the house, but it was very secret listening. When everyone was out, I would turn it up really loud and po-go around. I think it shows the fundamental difference between American soul and UK soul; we all listen to the same reference points - Marvin Gaye, Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin but The Boomtown Rats were daytime radio listening, whereas in America they might have been listening to Debbie Gibson.

The imagery was just imagery and it was the most left of centre thing that we could be into at that time that our parents wouldn't be down with. There was a real punk and reggae and dub thing going on them which is now embraced by the crusties. There wasn't really black pop music per se. So you really were going for the most cutting edge thing.

Last record: Stardust's "Music Sounds Better With You"

I think there are rare moments of brilliance every couple of years and this song is one of them. It's great to dance to and really lose yourself in. It kind of reminds me of the hypnotic effect of Crystal Waters' "Gipsy Women" when it first came out. It was bang on the nose until it was played out on every radio station. It's the same with this track. It has all the best elements of dance, hypnotic, simple and there is a degree of emotion that you can lose yourself in. The hooks of it, the things that draw you in, are really easy to remember. It's really uplifting, whether you are going out in the day or in the morning you put it on. I have it on 12". In fact, I bought two copies, because you can mix them together and have great fun.

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INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

banon

WORLD

Can't take the stress, M'Lud

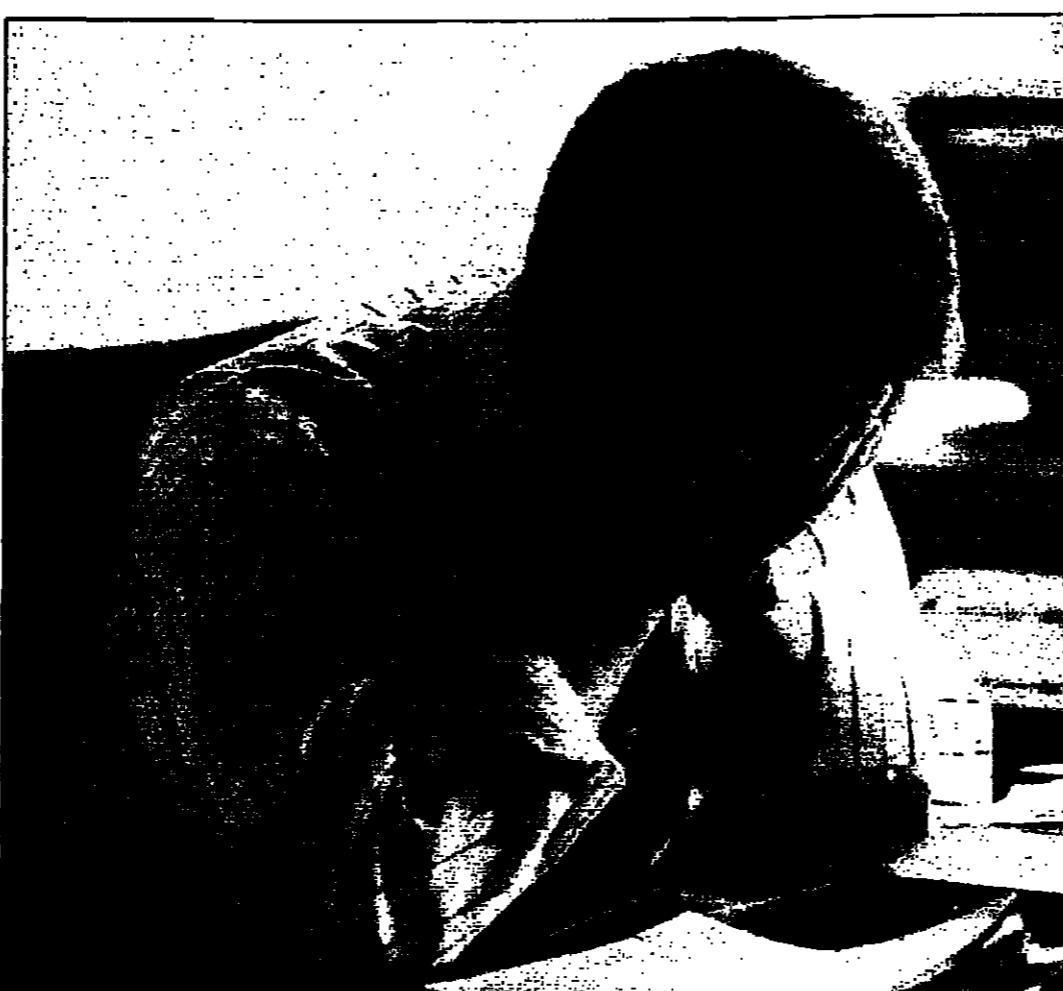
Burn-out is a serious problem for today's lawyers. By Robert Verkaik

RESEARCH PUBLISHED BY THE US-based consultancy the Great Work/Life Debate and the magazine *Management Today* shows that English lawyers take more time off for personal reasons than any other professional group. Lawyers made up 18 per cent of the 5,500 respondents to the survey, which showed that 28 per cent of lawyers took off more than four days a year for personal reasons compared with an average across the professions of 22 per cent.

The survey also found that more than two-thirds of lawyers would take a cut in salary in exchange for a better balance between work and outside life, compared with just a quarter in the national average.

The consultancy's chief executive, Liz Bargh, comments: "This will hit a nerve with many people; these are highly capable professional people keen to give the outward appearance of keeping control. Yet the sacrifices some are making for the sake of their careers are shocking."

The life of a young City lawyer in the Nineties has become more like the life of a City trader during the booming Eighties. Many solicitors are happy now to sell themselves to clients as superlawyers who can go days without sleep to complete a deal or win a case. The work-hard culture in some law firms means that lawyers will even compete with each other to leave the office last. Stories abound of solicitors keeping computers switched on all night just to give the impression that they are still in the building.



Lawyers who work 48 hours at a stretch are at risk of illness

And figures compiled recently by the personnel departments of some of the leading City law firms show that stories of overworked lawyers are not apocryphal; the firms are struggling to hang on to assistant solicitors. Turnover rates among the worst affected firms are as much as 40 per cent. Many are falling victim to burn-out and high levels of stress.

The

City's largest firm, Clifford Chance, now operates an in-house stress-counselling service for those lawyers who may have done one deal too many. A managing partner, Tony Williams, whose own firm has an assistant solicitor turnover rate of between 22 and 24 per cent, says: "We want to do our best so that people do not suffer burn-out. We want them to handle the level of work they can handle."

But he acknowledges that the top 10 law firms are facing an exodus of young lawyers from the City. "There are high pressures in the top firms, and it is clearly an issue in relation to retaining people, but hours are not the overriding factor."

The firm now carries out extensive exit interviews of departing lawyers. These show that many lawyers are deliberately opting for different lifestyles. "Some decide they simply don't want City life. Very few go to our major competitors. The pressure issue is recognised as applying to all the major law firms, not just ours or two."

Barry Pritchard, co-ordinator of Solcare, the Law Society-funded charity for solicitors with alcohol or

drug problems, says many solicitors cope with stress by becoming dependent on drugs or alcohol.

He warns that City law firms which allow their solicitors to work 36 hours without sleep are storing up trouble. "Not only are they putting the health of their lawyers at risk, they could also be running the risk of serious errors being made, which can cost big money."

Mr Pritchard advises lawyers caught up in gruelling monotonous deals to go home and grab a couple of hours' sleep. "If someone is going to carry on working non-stop for 48 hours, the quality of their work is going to be pretty abysmal."

Clifford Chance's Williams argues that because of client demands, it is difficult to ensure that lawyers can always take proper breaks during deals or major litigation. A psychologist, Dr David Lewis, has carried out a detailed comparative study of the pressures under

which professionals work. It showed that only doctors and air traffic controllers experience more stressful working lives than lawyers.

Dr Lewis says that in his study, it was the assistant solicitors who experienced the greatest level of stress because they had little control over their working environment. Many felt the greatest stress came from having to justify themselves in terms of billing power, and many thought that doing "pro bono" legal work would at least provide some benefit in terms of personal satisfaction.

The ones to benefit from all this angst and burn-out have been the larger regional law firms who have been cashing in on the solicitor fall-out from the London City firms. Last year, Birmingham firm Wragge & Co tried to tempt City lawyers with an ad campaign that sold Birmingham as the place where was more quality of life. Ex-City lawyer David Barron, who is now at Wragge & Co says:

"I want to be able to see people during the week and have some sort of life. At the weekend, I want to be in the countryside rather than face a two-hour slog on the motorway."

And at the Tumbridge Wells firm Cripps Harries Hall, managing partner Jonathan Denny says: "In spite of the very high pay, there is a widespread disenchantment with the City. The pressures are excessive and people wise up to that sooner or later. But he warns that City lawyers should not regard regional practices as a soft option. "Sometimes they think they are coming for a quiet life, and they may not be working quite the same hours - but it's not going to be straight 9am to 5pm, either."

And an indication of where overstressed lawyers may be headed in the future is in the top 10 wish-list which *Management Today* compiled from its survey. For lawyers, topping the list was working fewer hours, and working from home.

Despite a direction by the judge to the jury to convict Mr Punting, they acquitted him.

Similarly, in 1991, as one commentator said, "a jury rose above the law to dispense justice" - the jury acquitted Patrick Pottle and Michael Randle when they were prosecuted at the Old Bailey when they helped Soviet agent George Blake escape after he broke out of Wormwood Scrubs in 1966. Mr Wadham says it is recognised that the jury has the power to acquit in cases where strictly applying the law would lead to an unjust result.

Despite the recent publicity about the protection of whistle-blowers under the Public Interest Disclosure Bill, which is due to come into law next year, and the Freedom of Information White Paper, which now seems to have been stalled as the minister responsible for it was sacked in the reshuffle and responsibility for the paper is now with the Home Office. But neither of these covers the security and intelligence services.

And upon any report being filed, whatever the time taken, there is then the further prospect of delay in getting court time

Chaired by Jeremy Rosenblatt, a family law barrister.

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or even getting enough court time. The courts are becoming like NHS hospitals: the queue for the consultant to perform the operation is synonymous with the queue for the judge in the court: there are not enough doctors or judges, while there are more and more patients and there is more and more litigation over children.

And even when the matter finally comes before the judge, the essential reports which are often so heavily relied upon by the court to settle the case may lack any proper final recommendations or even enough indications to come to a conclusion. For the lawyers, a report without a recommendation means that there has to be a court hearing, and if a report does not give a proper analysis of any

recommendations, that will just open the door for the lawyers to cross-examine the report-writers on the gaps, and the reasons for them, as they have to act in the best interests of their respective clients.

The system obviously needs to be changed, not to any radical extent because, in the current climate, practitioners are repeatedly told, there is no funding. But wherever possible, early and concise reporting on the issues which are at the heart of the family conflict, with proper evaluation for the judge, is essential.

It is only then that the parties and their advisers can ascertain whether the separation of one parent from the children, far from being a necessity in the first place, was the result of the whim of one parent against the other, and that unnecessary separation can be ended much more quickly. That would prevent a repetition of such tragic news stories in the future.

Jeremy Rosenblatt is a family law barrister.

Whistle blowers, secrets and spies

The recent David Shayler case has raised the question: who is really protecting the public interest? By Linda Tsang

ONE PERSON'S whistle-blowing is another person's betrayal or, in the case of former MI5 employee David Shayler, breach of national security. Shayler's claims of bureaucratic inefficiency in the security services and allegations of an unauthorised plot to assassinate President Gaddafi of Libya have landed him in a Paris prison and facing charges under the Official Secrets Act.

His solicitor John Wadham, who is also the director of the civil rights group Liberty, is in Paris again this week seeing his client and trying to organise a hearing for bail in the next couple of weeks.

Mr Wadham says: "All whistle-blowers have to break a set of rules when they give out certain information, and some will break the law in one way or another. The key question is what then happens to them. There obviously needs to be an assessment whether there is justification for disclosing secrets, and that should be and will be a matter for the courts."

While Mr Shayler has been in-

terviewed by journalists under secret arrangements that might have impressed Mr Shayler's former employers in the security services, lawyers here have been speculating on how the Government may fall in its attempts to persuade the French authorities to extradite Mr Shayler for trial on charges under the Official Secrets Act. The hearing on the extradition of Mr Shayler, under the European Convention on extradition, will probably be in October.

Mr Wadham adds that "one of the interesting things is that the French process is quasi-judicial and quasi-political - the judges make a recommendation to the relevant Government minister, and it then goes to the President for the final decision. What is relevant in this case is that those accused of political offences are not extraditable, and there is also the matter of reciprocity -

case there were no attempts to extradite Peter Wright from Australia. David Hooper, a partner at the law firm Biddle, who acted for Wright in that case, considers that the then US Government might have realised that the Australian authorities might not have co-operated. "In any event," adds Mr Hooper, "using criminal law as a subsidiary remedy for what is a civil law offence is clearly unsatisfactory."

But if the extradition application for Shayler succeeds, there will then be a trial in the UK. Again, parallels have been drawn with the case of Clive Ponting in 1988, the former assistant secretary at the Ministry of Defence who was prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act for leaking documents showing that Conservative Ministers had misled the House of Commons about the sinking of the Belgrano during the Falklands War.

Parallels have been drawn with the Spycatcher case, but in that

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 406 of the Companies Act 1985 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at The George Hotel, 20-27 George Street, London SW1Y 5AB on 19 August 1998 at 11.00am for the purpose of receiving a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Company and, if necessary, to make an order for the winding up of the Company.

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Legal Notices

IN THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 RE: PARK VALVES LIMITED

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HOLLOWAY
ODEON (0181-315 4213) ☎ Archway, Armageddon 11.30pm, 1.35pm, 4.00pm, 5.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm, 9.10pm The Avengers 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 8pm, 10.10pm Barney's Great Adventure 1.10pm Dr Dolittle 11.45am, 1.20pm, 1.50pm, 3.25pm, 3.55pm, 5.15pm, 6.10pm, 7.50pm, 8.15pm, 9.45pm, 10.45pm Eve's Bayou 2.30pm, 6.15pm, 9.35pm Gang Related 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Godzilla 11.40pm The Little Mermaid 12.05pm Lost In Space 3pm, 6.15pm, 9.05pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.35pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (0181-315 4217) ☎ Highgate, Armageddon 1.30pm, 5.05pm, 8.05pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.00pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm Lost In Space 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0131-235 3006) ☎ Peckham Rye, Armageddon 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 5pm, 11.15pm The Avengers 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm, 11.35pm Barney's Great Adventure 12.45pm Dr Dolittle 12.30pm, 2.15pm, 4.00pm, 5.30pm, 9.10pm Eve's Bayou 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 11.55pm Gang Related 4.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm, 11.50pm Godzilla 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.20pm The Little Mermaid 1.15pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 2.25pm Paulie 12.35pm, 2.30pm Food 11.30pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0170-9024011) ☎ Putney Bridge, Armageddon 2.15pm, 5.30pm, 9pm The Avengers 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 7.45pm, 10pm Barney's Great Adventure 1.15pm Dr Dolittle 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm Lost In Space 6.25pm, 9.15pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (0181-315 4218) ☎ Richmond, Armageddon 1.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm The Avengers 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.00pm, 5.30pm, 9.10pm

ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218) ☎ Richmond, Barney's Great Adventure 1pm City Of Angels 3.30pm, 4.00pm, 9.10pm Dr Dolittle 1pm, 3.10pm, 5.05pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm Godzilla 2.05pm, 4.30pm The Little Mermaid 10.15pm, 5pm Lost In Space 5.50pm, 8.50pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 1.10pm

RIMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) ☎ Rimford, Armageddon 1.35pm, 4.40pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm Dr Dolittle 2.10pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (0170-790404) ☎ Rimford, Armageddon 1.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm The Avengers 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm Dr Dolittle 2.10pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm

ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4219) ☎ Rimford, Armageddon 2.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm The Avengers 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.50pm Barney's Great Adventure 1.10pm Dr Dolittle 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm, 7.45pm, 9.35pm Godzilla 2.20pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm The Little Mermaid 12.05pm, Lost In Space 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 9.10pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.10pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) ☎ Streatham Hill, Armageddon 2.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm The Avengers 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.50pm Barney's Great Adventure 1.10pm Dr Dolittle 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm, 7.45pm, 9.35pm Godzilla 2.20pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm The Little Mermaid 12.05pm, Lost In Space 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 9.10pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.10pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3368) ☎ Stratford East, Armageddon 3pm, 6.45pm, 9.45pm The Avengers 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm Barney's Great Adventure 1.10pm Dr Dolittle 11.45am, 1.20pm, 1.50pm, 3.25pm, 3.55pm, 5.15pm, 6.10pm, 7.50pm, 8.15pm, 9.45pm, 10.45pm Eve's Bayou 2.30pm, 6.15pm, 9.35pm Gang Related 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Godzilla 11.40pm The Little Mermaid 12.05pm Lost In Space 3pm, 6.15pm, 9.05pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.35pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) ☎ Turnpike Lane, Armageddon 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 8pm The Avengers 2pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Dr Dolittle 1.30pm, 2.25pm, 7.30pm, 10.05pm Paulie 1pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-9020424) ☎ Walthamstow Central, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-999 3463) ☎ South Woodford, Armageddon 1.55pm, 4.55pm, 7.55pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3464) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3465) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3466) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3467) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3468) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3469) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3470) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3471) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3472) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3473) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3474) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3475) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3476) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3477) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3478) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3479) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3480) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3481) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3482) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3483) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3484) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3485) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3486) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3487) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3488) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WYKES
ABC (0181-999 3489) ☎ Wykies, Chingford, Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details as for today: times and prices for the week, running times include intervals. — Seats at all prices — Seats at some prices in — Returns only Matinees — [1] Sun, [3] Tue, [4] Wed, [5] Thu, [6] Fri, [7] Sat

MISS SAIGON Musical which resents the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnamese. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) ☎ Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £9.25-£27.50, 90 mins.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-886 1443) ☎ Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £9.25-£23.50, 165 mins.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Theatre, SW1 (0171-589 0022) ☎ Picc Cir, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £18.50-£25.50, 150 mins.

POPCORN Lawrence Boswell directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema violence. Apollo Stagesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) ☎ Picc Cir, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £18.50-£23.50, 150 mins.

POSTMAN PAT The famed postie and his black-and-white cat come to the West End. Barbican Barbican EC2 (0171-638 8891) ☎ Barbican/Moorgate, Mon-Fri 10am-4pm, £4-12.50, concs £2-7.50.

THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND & BLACK COMEDY Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard and Peter Schaffer, directed by Gregory Doran. Comedy Pantomime, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ☎ Picc Cir/Leic Sq

RADIO 1
(97.3-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greene and Zoe Ball.
9.00 Simon Mayo. 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow. 12.30 Newsbeat. 12.45 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe.
4.00 Dave Pearce. 5.45 Newsbeat.
6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 8.30 Radio 1 Dance Party.
10.30 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider.
4.00 - 7.00 Emma B.

RADIO 2
(88.9-90.4MHz FM)
6.00 **Sarah Kennedy**. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 **Johnnie Walker**.
12.00 **Jimmy Young**. 2.00 **Alex Lester**. 5.05 **John Dunn**. 7.00 **Glamorous Nights**: the Nov Novello Story. 7.30 **Friday Night is Music Night**. 8.45 **Saturday Night and Sunday Morning**. 9.30 **Listen to the Band**. 10.00 **David Jacobs**. 10.30 **Shéridan Morley**. 12.05 **Charles Novie**. 4.00 - 6.00 **Jacide Bird**.

RADIO 3
(91.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 **On Air**.
9.00 **Masterworks**.
10.30 **Proms Artist of the Week**.
11.00 **Sound Stories**.
12.00 **Proms Composer of the Week**: Berlioz.
1.00 **The Radio 3 Luncheon Concert**.
2.00 **BBC Proms 98**, (R).
4.00 **Voices and Viols**.
4.45 **Music Machine**, (R).
5.00 **In Tune**.
7.30 **BBC Proms 98**. Like some enormous procession or tableau, Harrison Birtwistle's 'The Triumph of Time', inspired by Dürer, teems with musical events. All of human life, with its tragedies and hopes, passes by Beethoven's monumental symphony, too - its chorale finale rejoicing in universal freedom is still a political challenge to today's world. From the Royal Albert Hall, London, Rosa Mannion (soprano), Jadiwiga Rappe (mezzo), Philip Langridge (tenor), Willard White (bass), City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and Orchestra/Simon Rattle. Birtwistle: The Triumph of Time. See *Pick of the Day*.
8.00 **The Flesh Made Word**. Historian and travel writer William Dalrymple

FRIDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

IF YOU believe the dozens of polls of critics and fans, Citizen Kane (right) is the best film ever made. If you believe David Thomson, writing in his *Biographical Dictionary of Film*, it is 'a source of cinema, of corrupted beauty and evanescent meanings, making most subsequent films items from Xanadu's inventory'. That would make its genesis one of the key moments in art this century.



ROBERT HANKS

reflects on the 10 years he has spent in India and the Near, Middle and Far East, tugging at threads in an effort to unravel the lattice of human history.

8.20 Concert, part 2. Beethoven: Symphony No 9 in D minor (Choral). 9.35 Postscript: Valentine Cunningham presents a five-part personal guide to contemporary English fiction. 5: *Great Revivals*. A look at the New Gothic - or, as it has been described, a 'library of extreme methods' - to shed light on the cult of fiction and allegories of horror. (R)

10.00 ISCM Festival 1998. The BBC Philharmonic perform three works selected by the jury of the International School for Contemporary Music. This concert was given last May during New Music '98. Ernst Kovacic (piano), BBC Philharmonic/Mary Brabbins. Mary Fristerer: *Violin Concerto*. Shinji Lee: *Psalm 20*.
11.30 **Take Me Back to New Orleans**.
12.00 **Proms Composer of the Week**: Elgar. (R). 1.00 - 6.00 **Through the Night**.

8.45 Letter from America. Alastair Cooke with another slice of Americans.
9.00 **NEWS**: The Friday Play: *Victorville* by Marcy Kahan. In Los Angeles last month, three actors recreated a crucial hour in cinema history - when Orson

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 **Today**.
8.00 **Desert Island Discs**.
9.45 **JRR Tolkien's Roverandom**.
10.00 **NEWS**: **Women's Hour**.
11.00 **NEWS**: **Strictly Dancehall**.
11.30 **Like They've Never Been Gone**.

Welles delivered his verdict on the screenplay for 'Citizen Kane'. At stake is the credit for the film, being written by Herman J. Mankiewicz and overseen by John Houseman. With Stanley Karmel, David Ogden Stiers and William Hookins. Director Ned Chalet. See *Pick of the Day*.

10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 **Book at Bedtime**: *Fame is the Spur*. By Howard Spring, read by David Calder. (10/10).
11.00 **Last Tackie**. Martin Bashir and guests get together for more late-night conversation about sport.

11.30 The Syndicate.
12.00 **News**.
12.30 **The Late Book**: *The Shipping News*. (R)

2.45 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 **As World Service**.
5.30 **World News**.
5.35 **Shipping Forecast**.
5.40 **Inshore Forecast**.
5.45 **Prayer for the Day**.
5.47 **Leisure Report**.
5.56 - 6.00 **Weather**.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz LW)
9.45 - 10.00 **An Act of Worship**.
10.45 **The Triangular Tournament**.
12.00 **News Headlines**: **Shipping Forecast**. 12.04 **The Triangular Tournament**.
12.45 **5.54 Shipping Forecast**.
5.57 - 6.30 **The Triangular Tournament**.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

JACK LEMMON (right) has had a splendid career including such classics as *Mister Roberts*, *Some Like It Hot* and *The Odd Couple*. As he has grown older, he has shown little sign of running out of steam, turning out perfectly watchable movies such as *My Fellow Americans* (9pm Sky Movies Screen 1), a broad political comedy that receives its satellite premiere tonight. He and James Garner play a pair of ex-US presidents who discover that

the current incumbent at the White House is trying to shift the blame for a serious scandal onto them. Birds have proved a constant fascination for viewers, as Sir David Attenborough's forthcoming BBC1 blockbuster series, *The Life of Birds*, will no doubt remind us. *Wingbeats of the Amazon* (6.30pm Discovery) zooms in on some of the wonderful species which inhabit the Amazon. See *Pick of the Day*.

JAMES RAMPTON

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.30 **Long Hot Summer** (1958)
(595704). 6.00 **Dirty Rotten Scoundrels** (1988). 6.30 **The Abyss** (1989).
10.30 **10.35 Farewell, My Lovely** (1945). 12.20 **Black Sheep** (1985). 12.35 - 6.00 **Waiting to Exhale** (1995).

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2
6.00 **Francis, the Talking Mule** (1949) (5318). 7.30 **Shipyard Sally** (1940) (5314). 9.00 **Here Come the Munsters** (1964) (525058). 10.35 **Farwell, My Lovely** (1945) (502580). 12.20 **A Christmas Carol** (1945) (574849). 2.00 **Francis, the Talking Mule** (1949) (22191). 4.00 **Waiting to Exhale** (1995) (556778).

SKY MOVIES GOLD

8.00 **Francis, the Talking Mule** (1949) (574849). 10.30 **Waiting to Exhale** (1995) (556778). 12.20 **Black Sheep** (1985) (525058). 1.30 **Shipyard Sally** (1940) (5318). 3.30 **Francis, the Talking Mule** (1949) (574849). 5.00 **Waiting to Exhale** (1995) (556778).

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